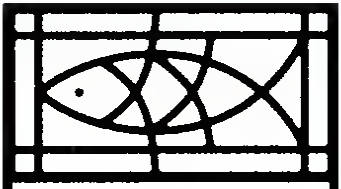

This manga bookstore has a thousand stories to tell.

3
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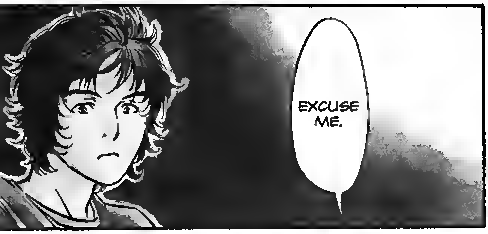
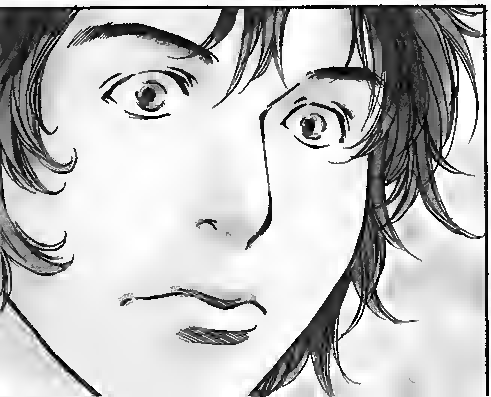
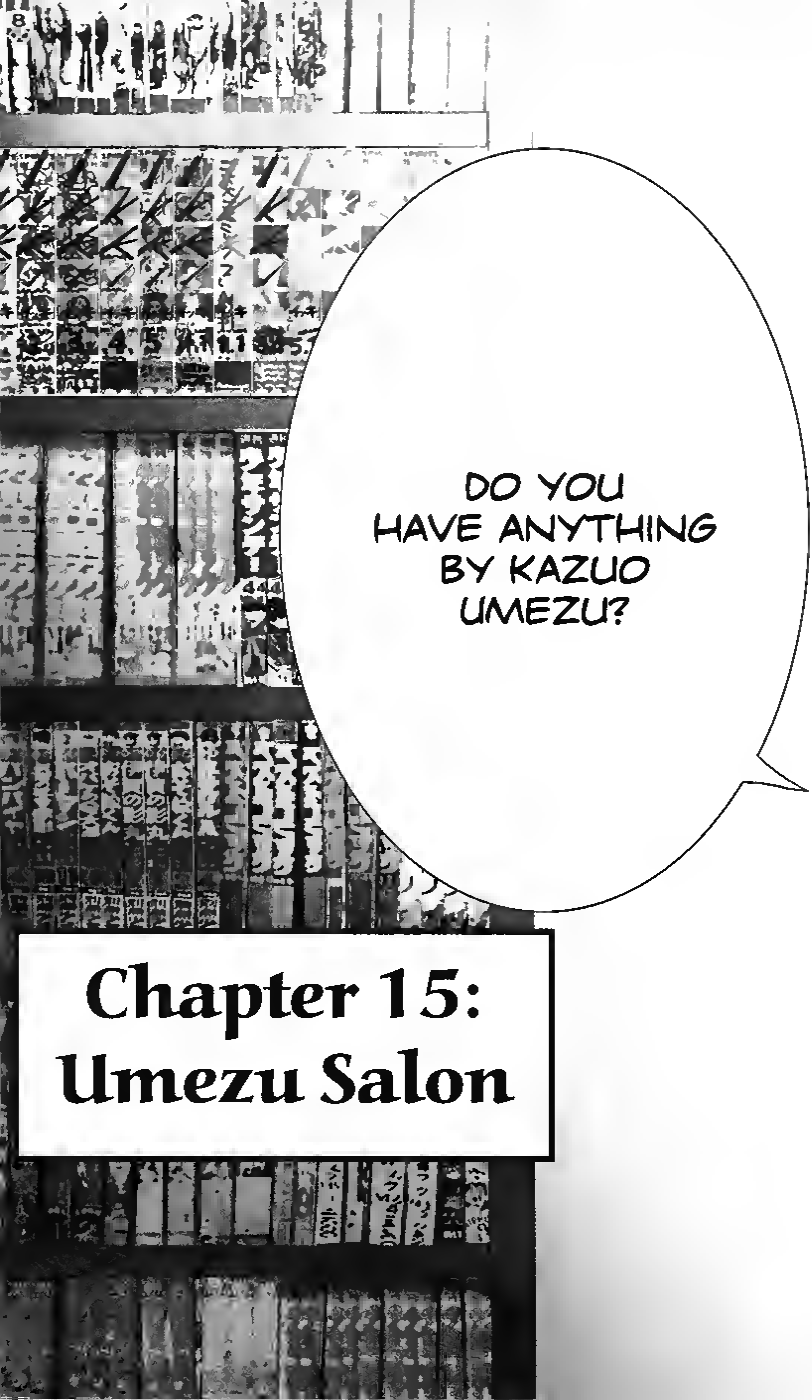
Chapter 15: Umezu Salon



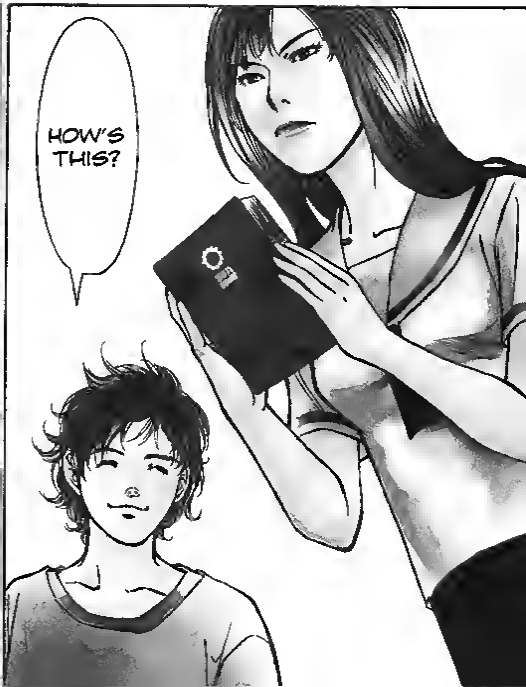


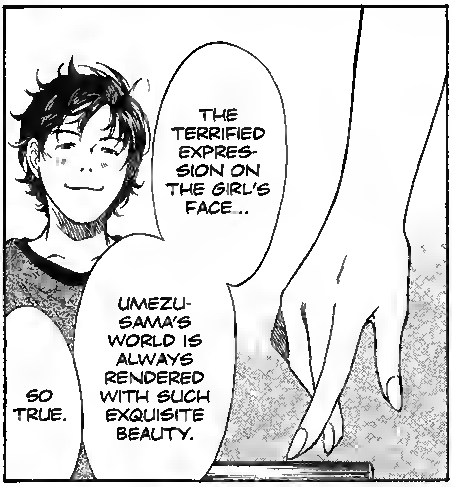


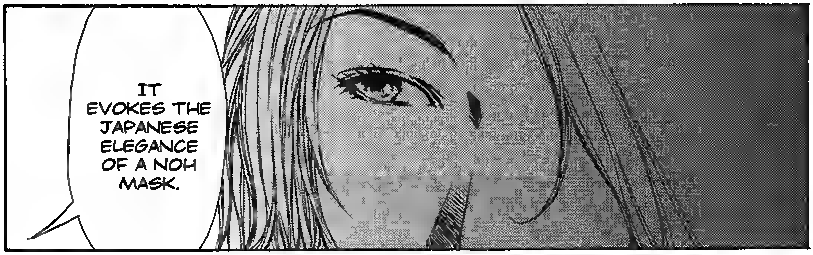
Chapter 15: Umezu Salon

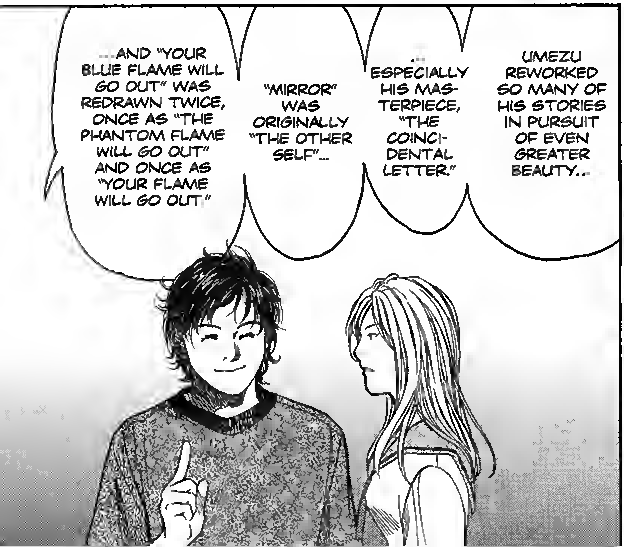
syn comics
復
楳図かずお
おそれ

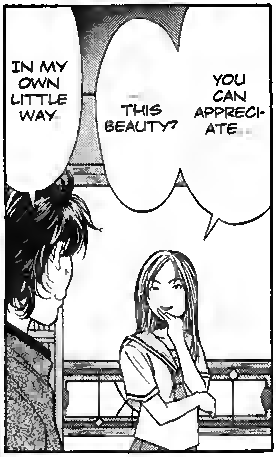
LOVELY


HOW'S THIS?






...AND "YOUR BLUE FLAME WILL GO OUT" WAS REDRAWN TWICE, ONCE AS "THE PHANTOM FLAME WILL GO OUT" AND ONCE AS "YOUR FLAME WILL GO OUT."
"MIRROR" WAS ORIGINALLY "THE OTHER SELF"...
...ESPECIALLY HIS MASTERPIECE, "THE COINCIDENTAL LETTER."
UMEZU REWORKED SO MANY OF HIS STORIES IN PURSUIT OF EVEN GREATER BEAUTY...



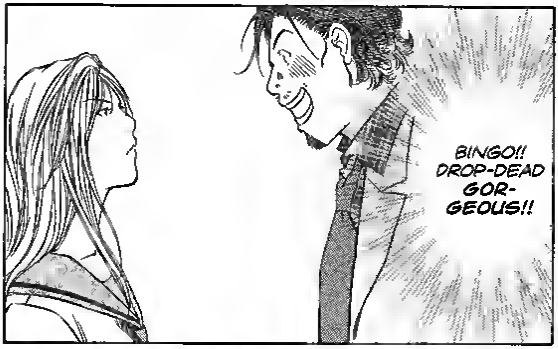
KAZUO UMEZU'S *SCARY BOOK* VOLUME 3: *FACES*, PUBLISHED BY ASAHI SONORAMA.

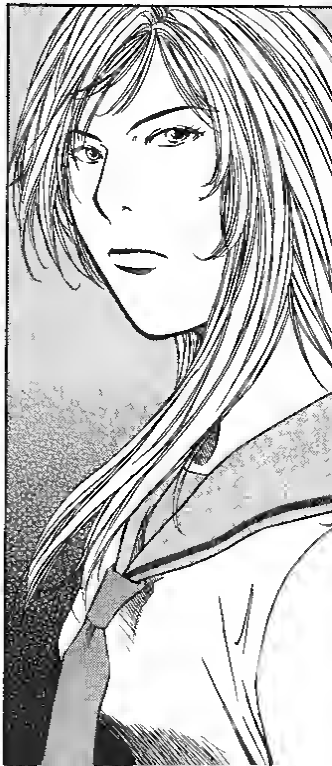
IS THAT SO?
YOU'RE QUITE KNOW-LEDGE-ABLE.
...AND YOU CLEARLY HAVE A DEEP APPRECIATION OF BEAUTY.
NOT AT ALL!
PLEASE VISIT MY SALON SOME-TIME.
SALON?
MY UMEZU SALON.

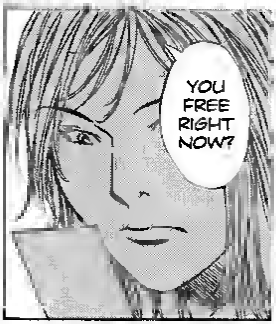
黒木屋
HIROKO-CHAN! HOW ARE YA, BABY? IT'S BEEN FOREVER!
IT'S ME, YASUO!
WHAT? YOU JUST SAW ME THE OTHER DAY?
REALLY?
JUST WANTED TO HEAR YOUR VOICE, MIKI-CHAN.
WHAT? YOU'RE SACHIYO? SACHIYO-CHAN?
OH, SACHIE-CHAN. MY BAD.
YOU KNOW THE YAKINIKU PLACE IN ODAIBA WHERE WE ATE THE OTHER NIGHT?
WHAT? I NEVER TOOK YOU THERE?
LET'S NOT SWEAT THE DETAILS
SO ARE YOU FREE.. TO.. NIGHT.

GOTTA GO, CHIEKO-CHAN. SOME-THING CAME UP.

HEY THERE, BABE!

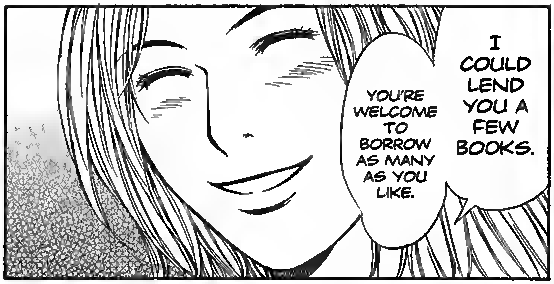

BINGO!! DROP-DEAD GOR-GEOUS!!

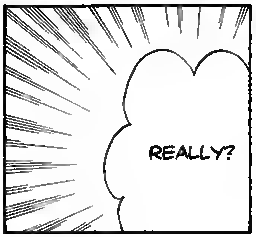


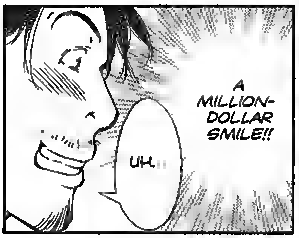

YOU FREE RIGHT NOW?

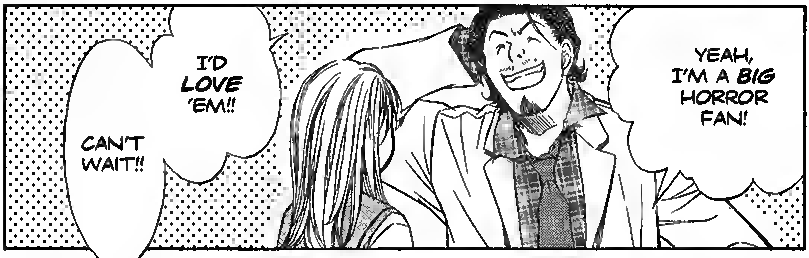
GO ON, TAKE IT.
HERE'S MY CARD.

PSH
WHOOPS!
BM
P
WALK STRAIGHT!
HEY, WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
恐怖
2
HERE'S YOUR BOOK
YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES
YEOWWW!!

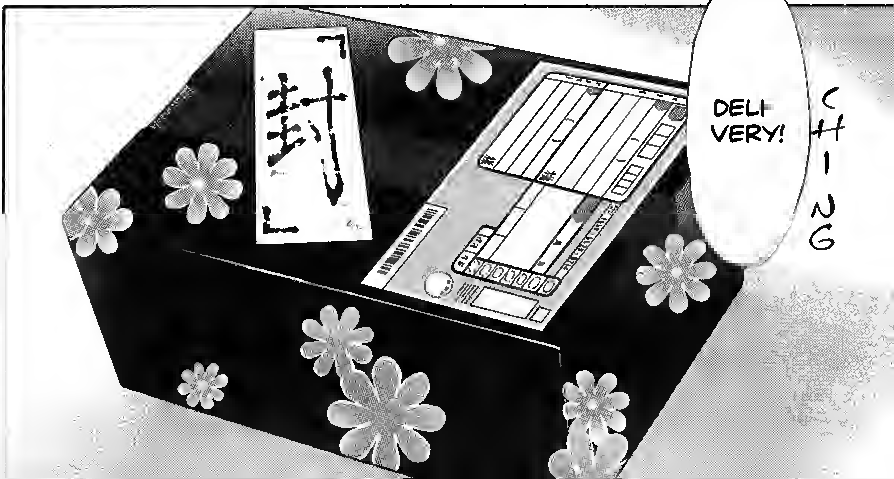








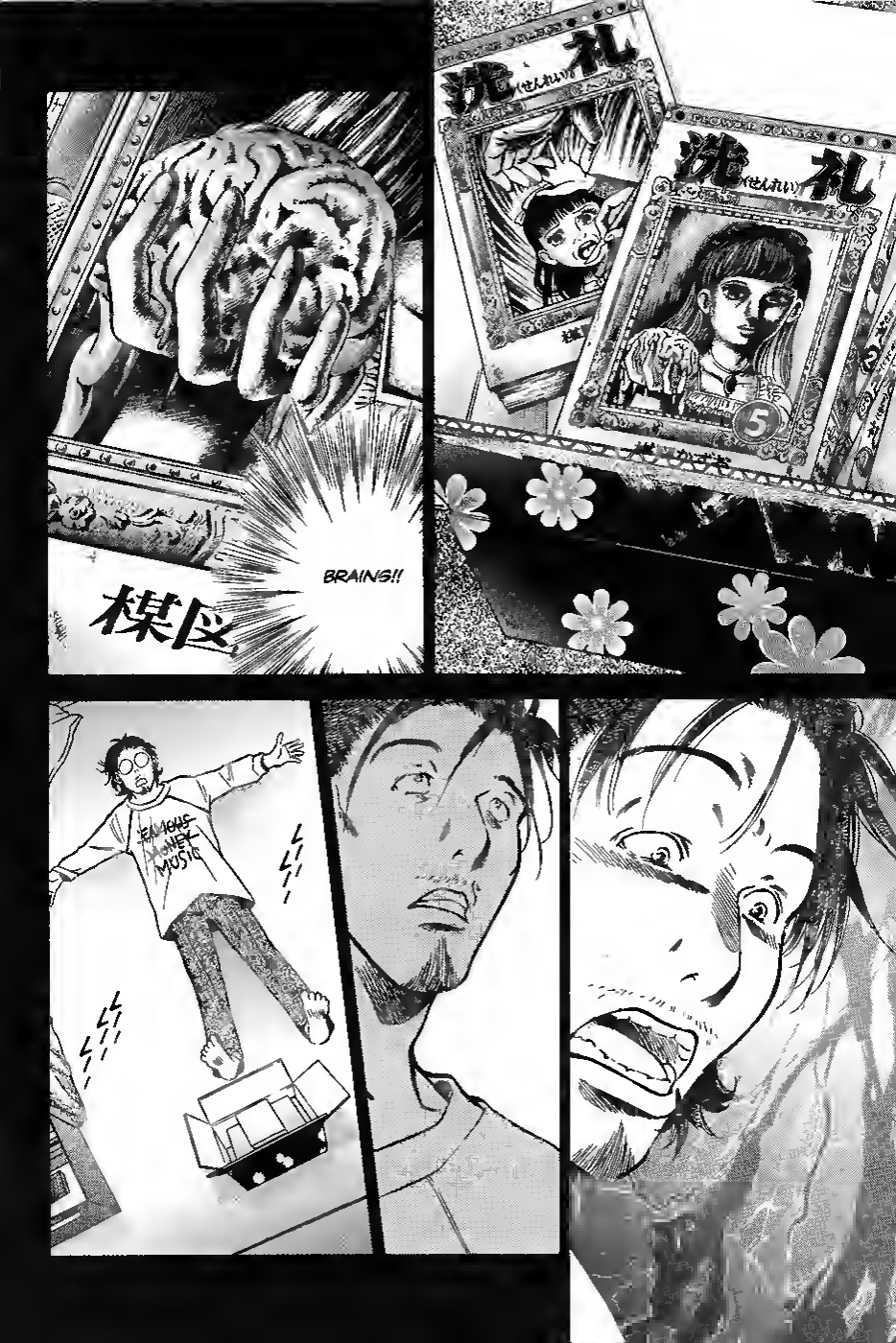
★THE SEAL RESEMBLES A WARD TO CONTAIN EVIL SPIRITS.



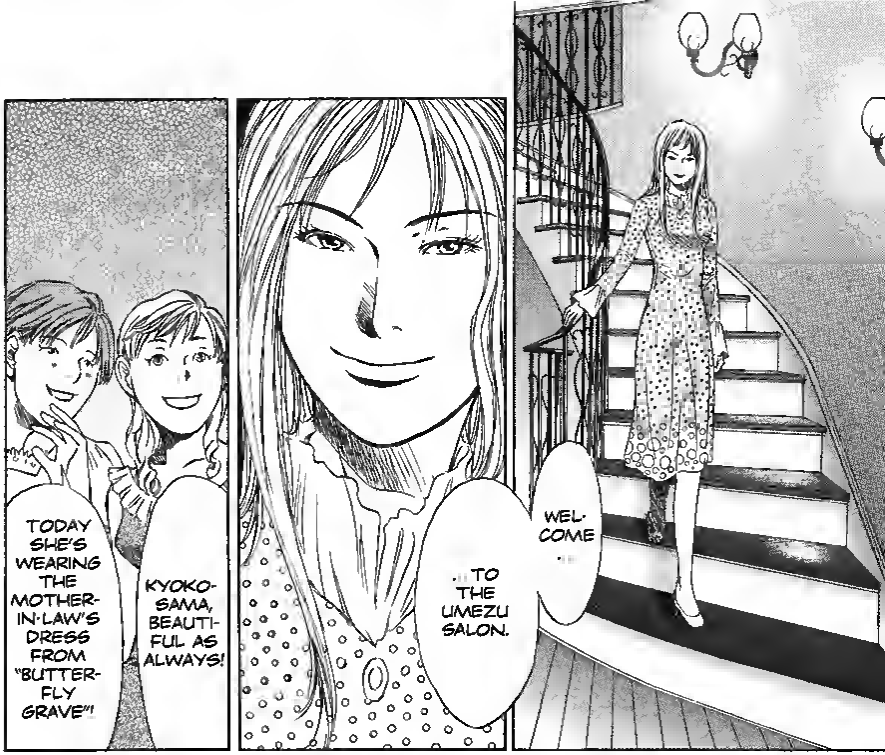
JEEZ, YASUO.
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO *LIE* LIKE THAT?
...
MY WORLD IS OVER ...
STUDY
HELL TEACHER NUBE (JIGOKU SENSEI NUBE) STORY BY HIRO MAKURA. ART BY YUKIOMI INUKAI
IDOLIZED IN WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP, PUBLISHED BY SHUEISHA BEGINNING IN 1993, HORROR COMEDY ABOUT A TEACHER WITH A "DEMON'S HAND" WHO BATTLES EVIL SPIRITS. THE 14 VOLUME SERIES IS AVAILABLE FROM VIZ COMICS.
HEY, THAT MANGA HAD SOME PRETTY SCARY MO-MENTS.
REMEMBER THAT TIME YOU READ *HELL TEACHER NUBE*? YOU COULDN'T EVEN GO TO THE ***BATHROOM*** AT NIGHT.
THAT'S JUST SAD.
I COULDN'T PASS UP A CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW A LOOKER LIKE HER..
I KNOW ...
IT'LL GIVE YOU A HEART ATTACK.
YEAH ...
...BUT TO GO FROM *THAT* TO KAZUO UMEZU...

A WHOLE BOX...
...FILLED WITH KAZUO UMEZU.
...GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
JUST THINKING ABOUT IT...
HEY!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA READ 'EM?
shp
MAYBE THE STORIES WON'T BE SO SCARY IF I READ THE ENDINGS FIRST!
THAT'S JUST PLAIN...
...WRONG.
brr
brr

BESIDES, WHY SHOULD I HELP YOU PICK UP GIRLS?
I'VE GOT WORK.
PLEASE?
HOW ABOUT WE READ THEM TOGE-THER?
OKAY, OKAY!
RIIIP
BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
FAMOUS

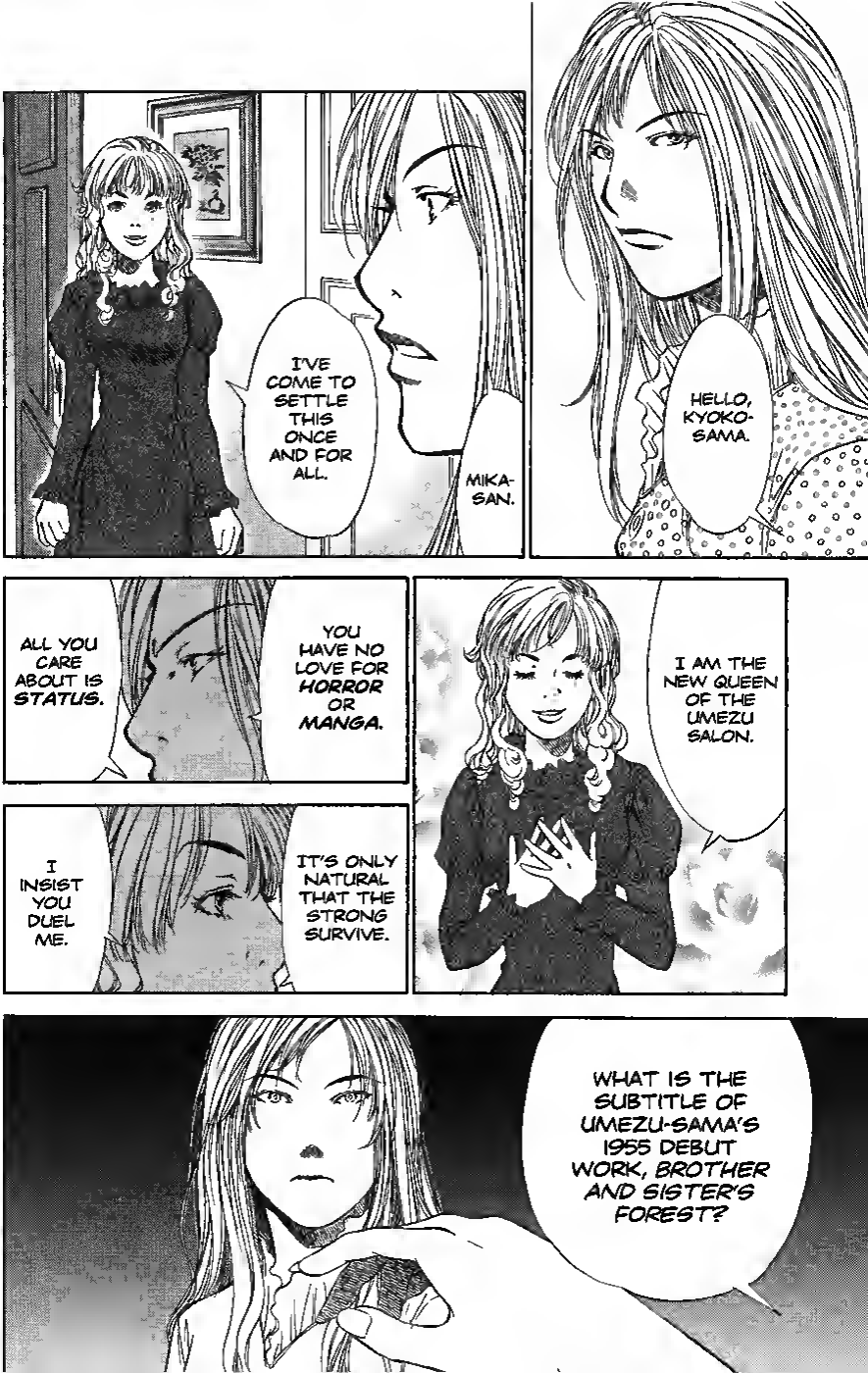

BRAING!!
棟良
洗礼
洗礼
5
FAMOUS ANOTHER MUSIC

WELCOME TO THE UMEZU SALON, YASUO-SAMA.
SO THIS IS THE UMEZU SALON...IN A HOTEL MEETING ROOM.
LOOKS NORMAL ENOUGH.
BUT THE CONVERSATION...
WHICH IS MORE HORRIFYING... THE IMPALEMENT OR THE VISE SCENE IN CAT FACE?
TAAAK
GOOD EVENING, ALL.


TODAY SHE'S WEARING THE MOTHER-IN-LAW'S DRESS FROM "BUTTERFLY GRAVE"!
KYOKO-SAMA, BEAUTIFUL AS ALWAYS!
...TO THE UMEZU SALON.
WELCOME...

HUNH?
NOW, YASUO-SAMA...
...PERHAPS, BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION, YOU'D LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE HORROR OF UMEZU'S MANGA.
WELCOME, YASUO-SAMA.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE A NEW FRIEND.
...ER, HELLO.

WELL, YASUO-SAMA?
YA-SUO-KUN!
ER... UH..
YES?
YOU DID READ THE BOOKS I SENT YOU
MURMUR
YOU WERE THE FIRST TO RUN HOME CRYING!
REMEMBER WHEN THEY CAUGHT A FISH WITH A HUMAN-LOOKING FACE AND ALL THE KIDS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WENT TO SEE IT?
HUH?
WE GREW UP DOWN THE STREET FROM EACH OTHER!
Chak
I...
PLEASE, YASUO-SAMA...
I'M SURPRISED TO SEE THAT SCARED LITTLE BOY HERE.


HELLO, KYOKO-SAMA.
MIKA-SAN.
I'VE COME TO SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL.
I AM THE NEW QUEEN OF THE UMEZU SALON.
YOU HAVE NO LOVE FOR HORROR OR MANGA.
ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS STATUS.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT THE STRONG SURVIVE.
I INSIST YOU DUEL ME.
WHAT IS THE SUBTITLE OF UMEZU-SAMA'S 1955 DEBUT WORK, BROTHER AND SISTER'S FOREST?

I THINK IT'S SOMETHING FROM A FAIRY TALE.
TIME'S UP, KYOKO-SAMA.
OH, YOU DON'T KNOW?
WHAT?
THE ANSWER IS HANSEL AND GRETEL.
OF COURSE
AH.
CAN'T BE SURE, THOUGH.

I CAN'T CLAIM VICTORY AFTER RECEIVING ASSIS-TANCE.
NO.
THAT'S CORRECT. I LOSE.
FROM THIS DAY FORTH, I WILL NEVER SET FOOT IN THIS SALON AGAIN.
LIKE A TRUE QUEEN!
SUCH PRIDE!
SLAM
KYOKO-SAMA...
PLEASE COME BACK!
DON'T GO, KYOKO-SAMA!
KYOKO-SAMA, NO!

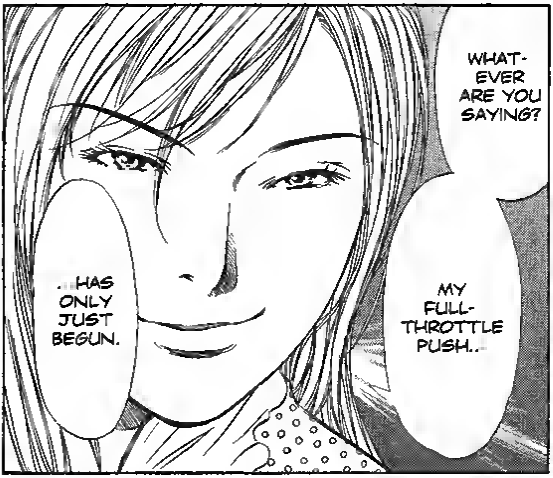
THIS IS YUMIKO'S OUTFIT FROM "THE SPOTTED GIRL."
THIS IS WHAT EMI'S REFLECTION WORE IN "MIRROR."
THIS IS FROM OROCHI
AREN'T YOU BITTER?
YOU BACKED DOWN AWFULLY EASILY.
IN ALL THIS WORLD, I AM THE ONLY RIGHTFUL QUEEN OF THE UMEZU SALON.
I'M SO BITTER I COULD DIE.
OF COURSE I AM.

SOMETIMES IT'S GOOD TO GET IT OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM.
I WAS HOLDING BACK MY TEARS. HOW DARE YOU MAKE ME CRY NOW?
BUT I WON'T TOLERATE YOUR PITY EITHER.
YOU...
SURE I DID.
DID YOU REALLY READ THE BOOKS I LOANED YOU?
YOU'RE WELCOME.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP EARLIER.
...
SCARED OUT OF MY MIND.
WEREN'T YOU TERRIFIED?
MOVED?
HOW CAN I PUT IT?
BUT AT THE SAME TIME... I WAS MOVED.

EVERY ONE OF HIS CHARACTERS...
...GOES FULL THROTTLE AT EVERYTHING.
FULL THROTTLE?
THE PURSUER AND THE PURSUED...
...THE FRIGHTENED WEAKLING, THE OMINOUSLY DISFIGURED FREAK...
...THE SNAKE WOMAN, THE CRIMSON SPIDER, ALL THE CHARACTERS IN IARA.
THEY'RE ALL DESPERATELY TRYING TO SURVIVE AND LIVE THEIR LIVES.
EVEN IN DEATH, THEY DIE FALLING FORWARD.
IT MADE ME THINK ABOUT HOW I'VE BEEN COASTING THROUGH LIFE.
I was bawling by the end of Drifting Classroom

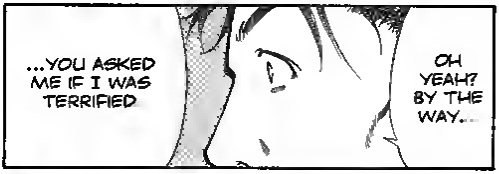
YOU MAY HAVE BEEN HUMILIATED, BUT YOU STILL CARRY YOURSELF LIKE THE QUEEN OF THE UMEZU SALON.
YOU HAVEN'T LOST AT ALL.

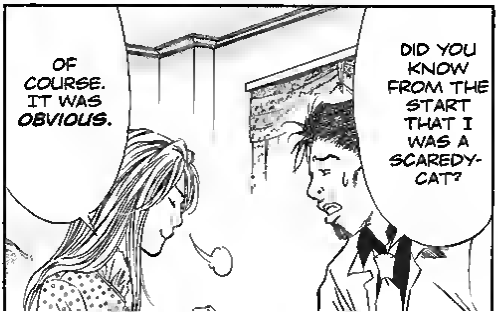
YOU'RE ALWAYS FULL-THROTTLE TOO.
HUH?


WHAT-EVER ARE YOU SAYING?
MY FULL-THROTTLE PUSH..
...HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE CAPABLE OF LOSING

THAT WAS PRE-CISELY WHY.
HUH?
THEN WHY'D YOU LEND ME-


...YOU ASKED ME IF I WAS TERRIFIED.
OH YEAH? BY THE WAY..


OF COURSE. IT WAS OBVIOUS.
DID YOU KNOW FROM THE START THAT I WAS A SCAREDY-CAT?

THEY'RE WONDER-FUL MANGA, AREN'T THEY?
Y... YEAH.
TRUE HORROR GAINS LUSTER IN THE PRESENCE OF A FRIGHTENED AUDIENCE!!
OH HO HO HO
YOU WITCH!!
REMEMBER, DON'T KNOCK SOMETHING UNTIL YOU'VE TRIED IT.
I LOSE.
That million-dollar smile.
CHIRIIN
HELLO, KINGYO-SAMA.

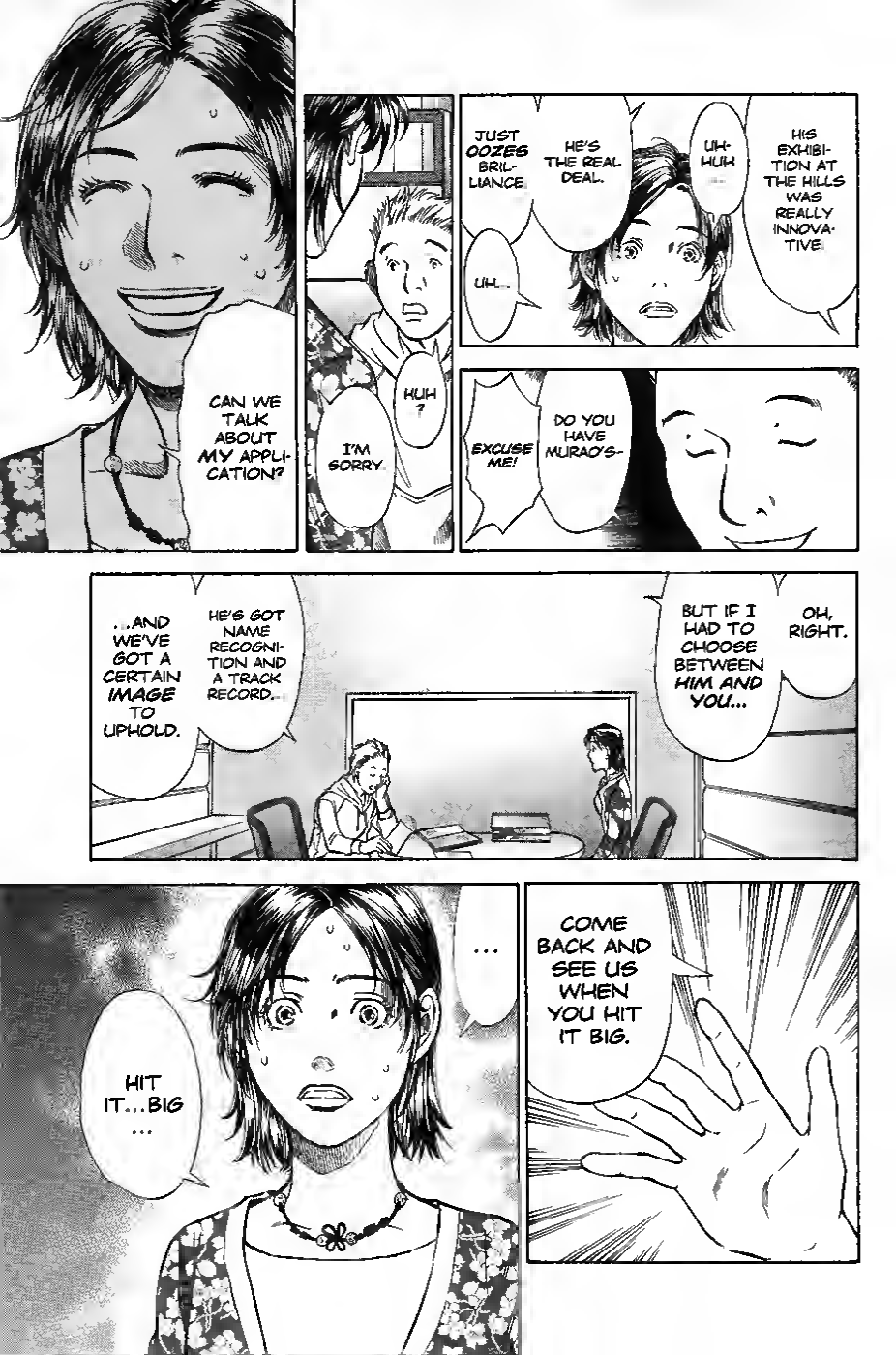
MAY WE...
...SET UP THE NEW UMEZU SALON IN YOUR BASEMENT FOR A WHILE?
PLEASE DO.
HERE ARE UMEZU-SAMA'S BOOKS.
HOW LOVELY.
"ONIMEN YASHIKI," "NOROWARETA RONINGYO," "KUCHI GA MIMI MADE SAKERU TOKI," "JIZO NO KAO GA AKAKU-NARU TOKI," "MADARA NO SHOJO," "SHISHA NO KOUSHIN," "FUKUSHU KIJIN"...
WHOOOA, SCARY.
IT'S REALLY, REALLY SCARY!

BDMP
Chapter 16: Makeup
BDMP
CAN I DO IT?
BDMP
IS IT IN MY REACH?
BDMP
BDMP
CAN I PROVE MY-SELF?

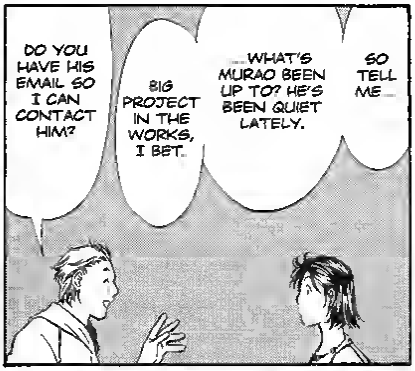
Chapter 16: Makeup

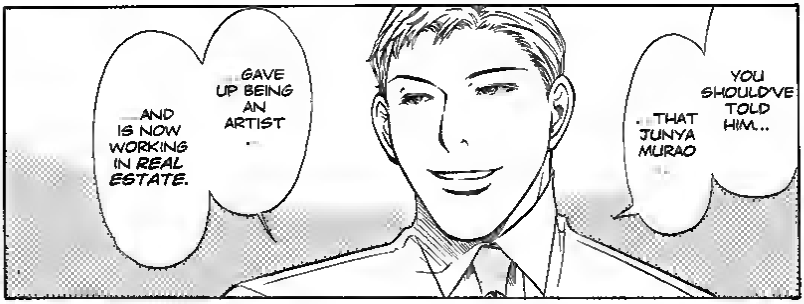
bdmp
bdmp
bdmp
HMMM.
FLIP
SO...
I-I'M MISAKI TADOKORO! I'M LOOKING FOR WORK IN DESIGN!
YEAH, WELL, THERE ARE LOTS OF POSITIONS AVAILABLE. .
I'LL TAKE ON ANY JOB!
MISS .
...DIDN'T WE SAY YOU COULD BRING UP TO FOUR SAMPLES OF YOUR WORK?
YES, THAT'S WHY...
...I BROUGHT FOUR PORTFOLIOS.
THEY'RE HANDMADE, BY THE WAY.
UH.. HUH.

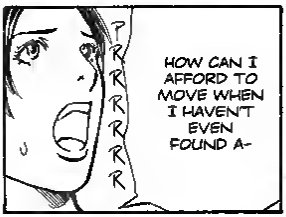
ER...
IS THIS YOUR RESUME?
HM...
WELL, YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND INITIATIVE DO COUNT FOR SOMETHING.
OH!
THAT WOULD MAKE YOU...
HERE IT COMES.
YES.
YOU'RE A HAMABI STUDENT?
"WILL GRADUATE FROM HAMAGASAKI ART SCHOOL IN..."
...CLASSMATES WITH JUNYA MURAO!
YES.
AND HERE IT IS.
HE'S SOMETHING ELSE.
EVEN AS A STUDENT, HE'S ATTRACTED A LOT OF ATTENTION WITH HIS GALLERY SHOWS.
HE'S ALREADY DOING PRO-LEVEL WORK

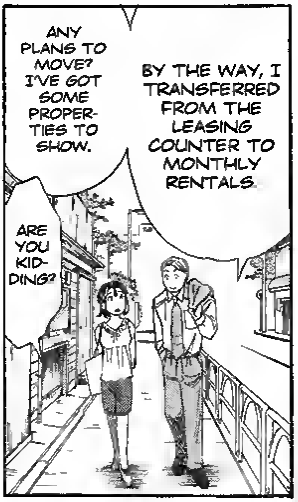

CAN WE TALK ABOUT MY APPLICATION?
I'M SORRY.
HUH?
UH...
JUST OOZES BRILLIANCE.
HE'S THE REAL DEAL.
UH-HUH...
HIS EXHIBITION AT THE HILLS WAS REALLY INNOVATIVE.
EXCUSE ME!
DO YOU HAVE MURAO'S-
...AND WE'VE GOT A CERTAIN IMAGE TO UPHOLD.
HE'S GOT NAME RECOGNITION AND A TRACK RECORD...
BUT IF I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN HIM AND YOU...
OH, RIGHT.
HIT IT...BIG...
...
COME BACK AND SEE US WHEN YOU HIT IT BIG.

UH...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW HIM ALL THAT WELL.

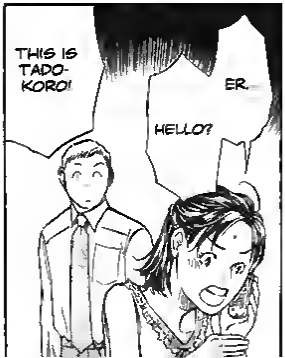

DO YOU HAVE HIS EMAIL SO I CAN CONTACT HIM?
BIG PROJECT IN THE WORKS, I BET.
WHAT'S MURAO BEEN UP TO? HE'S BEEN QUIET LATELY.
SO TELL ME...


AND IS NOW WORKING IN REAL ESTATE.
GAVE UP BEING AN ARTIST...
THAT JUNYA MURAO...
YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD HIM...


PRRRRR
HOW CAN I AFFORD TO MOVE WHEN I HAVEN'T EVEN FOUND A-


ANY PLANS TO MOVE? I'VE GOT SOME PROPER-TIES TO SHOW.
BY THE WAY, I TRANSFERRED FROM THE LEASING COUNTER TO MONTHLY RENTALS.
ARE YOU KID-DING?

THERE YOU GO AGAIN...
AND I'M AS POINT-LESSLY HANDSOME AS EVER

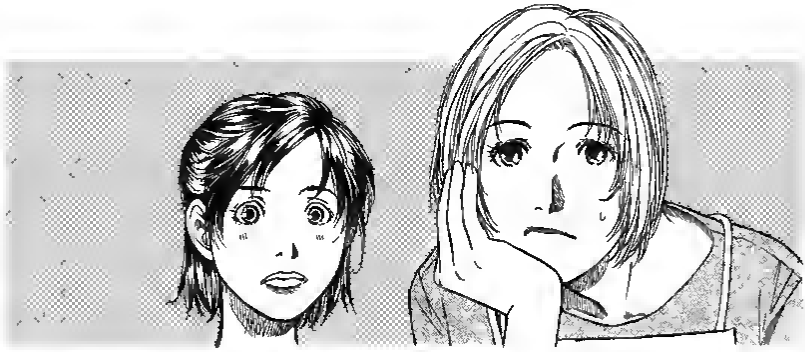

THIS IS TADO-KORO!
ER...
HELLO?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.
... YES.
IS THAT SO?
OH?
THE JUDGES FOR THE ART SHOW.
I WAS SURE I'D MAKE IT THIS TIME.
OH.
MY PIECE WAS REJEC-TED
C'MON, MISAKI, DON'T WORRY
...I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR ART.
MAY-BE...
WE'RE HERE.
YEAH.
THERE'S SOME-THING.

THEN I FOUND OUT MY FRIEND MURAO-KUN WAS ANOTHER REGULAR...

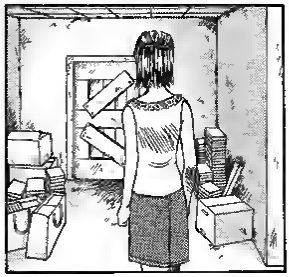
SINCE THEN IT'S BECOME A PLACE I VISIT OFTEN.

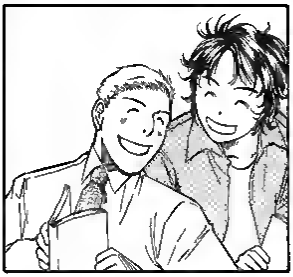
A WHILE BACK I HAPPENED UPON THIS BOOK-STORE.

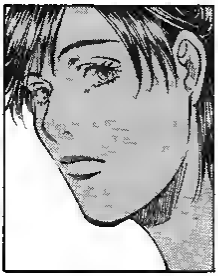


MISAKI-CHAN.
HUH? YES?
OH... NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.
WHAT DID YOU COME LOOKING FOR TODAY?
MAYBE SOMETHING THAT'LL CHEER ME UP.
I SEE.
SUPER
MANGA BLVD
MANGA BLVD
MANGA BLVD

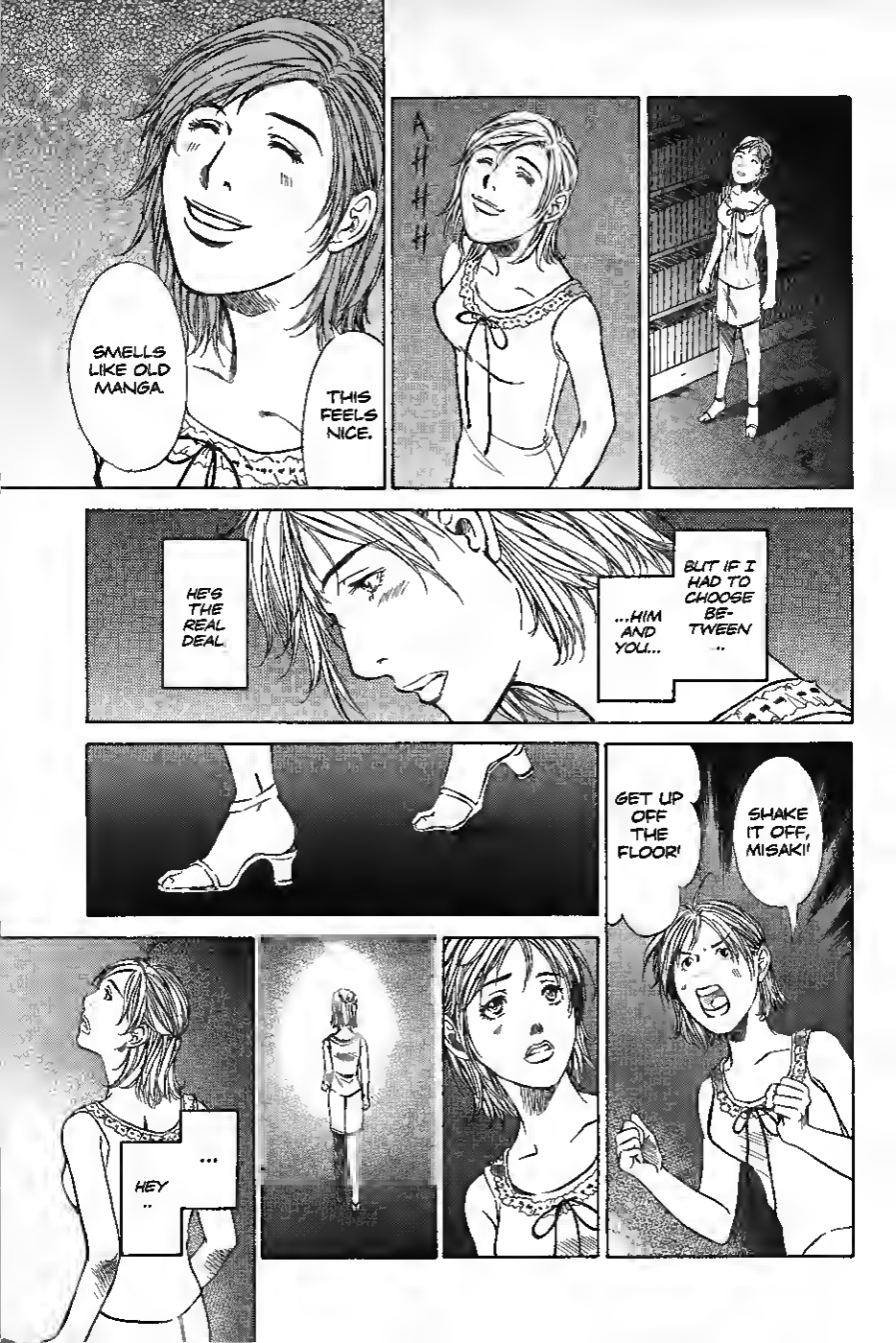
CAN I GO DOWN TO THE DUN-GEON?
CAN ..
YES, BUT BE CAREFUL IN THE DARK.

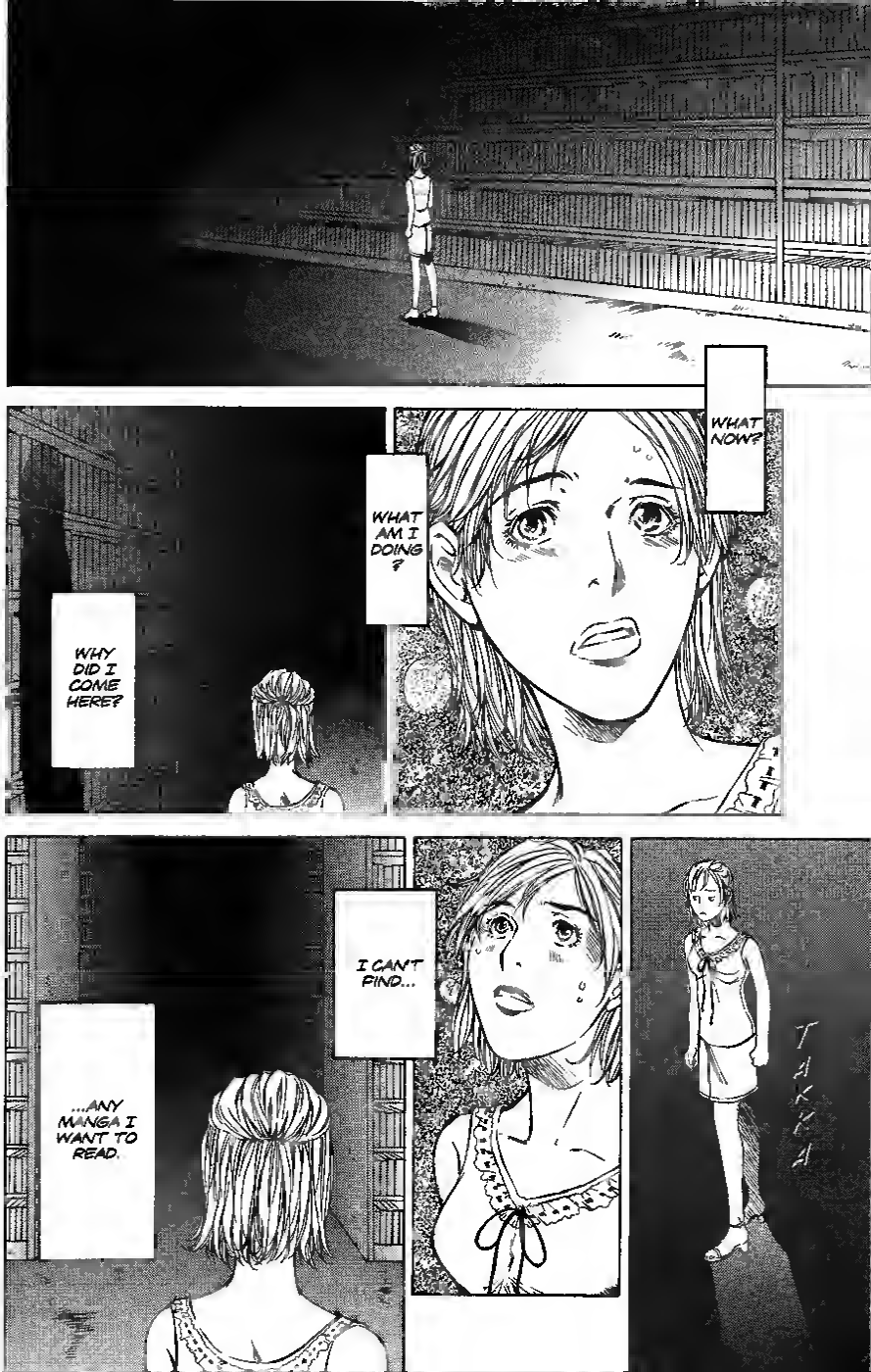






THIS IS THE VAST MANGA WAREHOUSE IN KINGYO'S BASEMENT ...
...LINED WITH SHELVES UPON SHELVES OF MANGA
A.K.A. THE BOTTOM-LESS MANGA DUNGEON

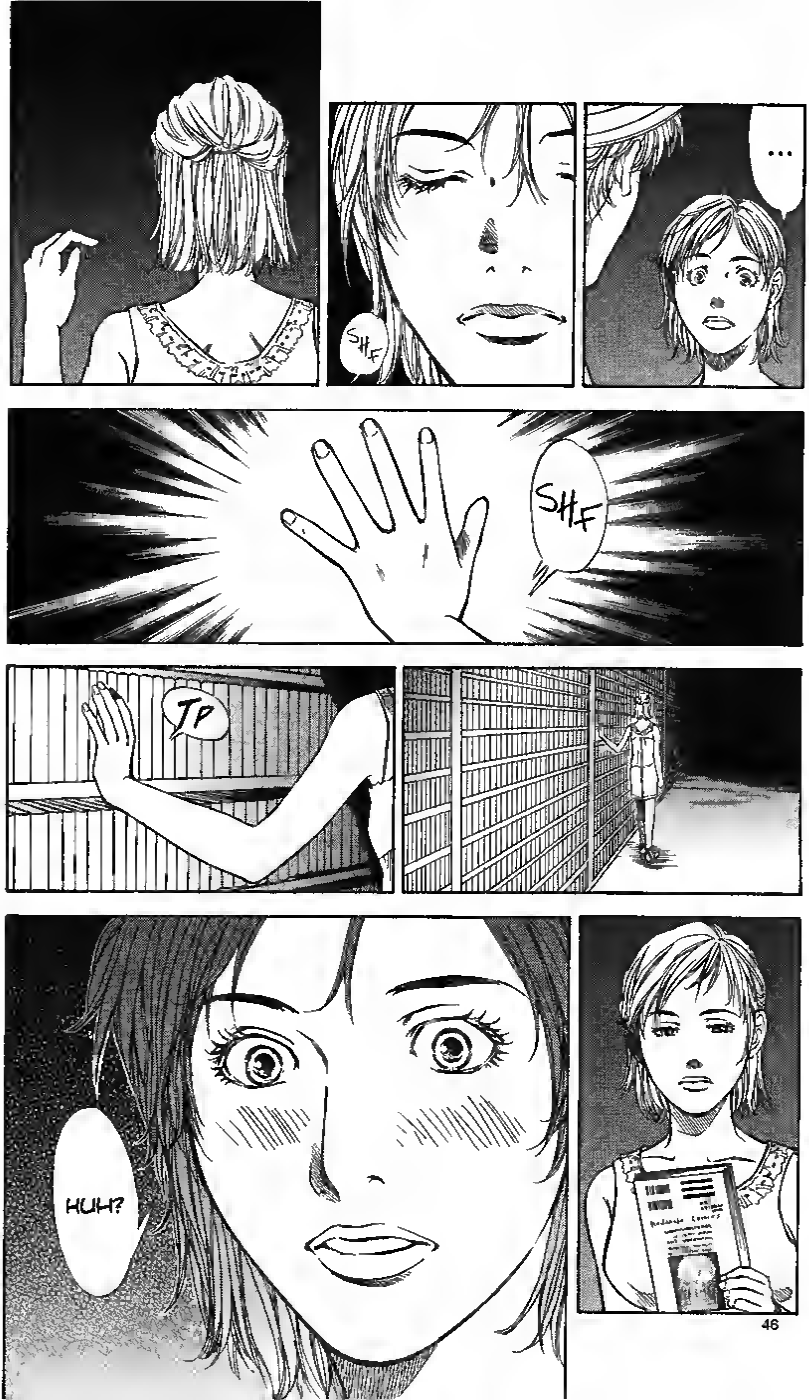

SMELLS LIKE OLD MANGA.
THIS FEELS NICE.
AHHH
HE'S THE REAL DEAL.
...HIM AND YOU...
BUT IF I HAD TO CHOOSE BE-TWEEN ...
GET UP OFF THE FLOOR!
SHAKE IT OFF, MISAKI!
HEY ..
...


WHAT NOW?
WHAT AM I DOING?
WHY DID I COME HERE?
I CAN'T FIND...
...ANY MANGA I WANT TO READ.
TAKAI

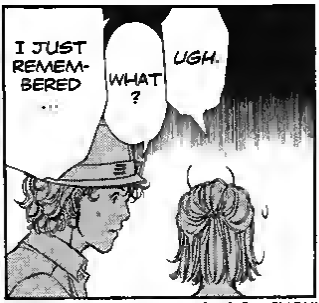
IT'S CREEPY DOWN HERE!
WHERE'S THE EXIT?
EEK!
OWW...
THUD!
ARE YOU OKAY?

YOU'VE BEEN DOWN HERE FOREVER. WE GOT WORRIED.
SHIBA-SAN...
HMM.
CAN'T FIND A BOOK YOU WANT TO READ, HUH?
MY HEAD STARTED SPINNING.
HAS THAT EVER HAPPENED TO YOU?
NOPE!
FIGURES.
BUT...
...I DO KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN IT HAPPENS.
OH?

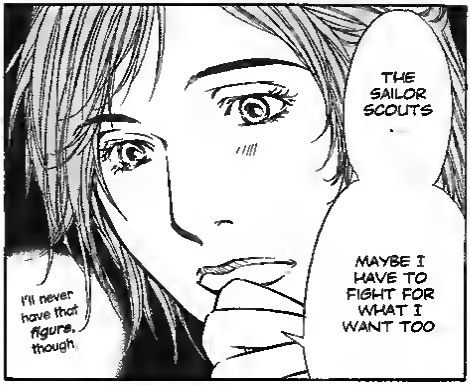
SHF
DO THIS.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
TP
WHEN YOU STOP ...
...AND PULL OUT A MANGA...
...RUN YOUR FINGERS ACROSS THE SPINES.. AND MAKE A WISH.
CLOSE YOUR EYES ...
NO WAY..
WANNA TRY?
...IT'LL TURN OUT TO BE JUST THE MANGA YOU NEED.
... WITH AN OPEN MIND ...


SHF
...
SHF
TP
HUH?

...I KIND OF LOOKED UP TO THE SAILOR SCOUTS, HOPING I'D GROW UP JUST LIKE THEM.
THEY WERE ONLY A LITTLE BIT OLDER THAN ME, BUT THEY WERE ALL SO SHAPELY AND MATURE.



©NAOKO TAKEUCHI


I'll never have that figure, though.
THE SAILOR SCOUTS
MAYBE I HAVE TO FIGHT FOR WHAT I WANT TOO

HA HA HA...AHEM ...SORRY.
BUT I DIDN'T TURN OUT LIKE THAT AT ALL.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRON-AGE.

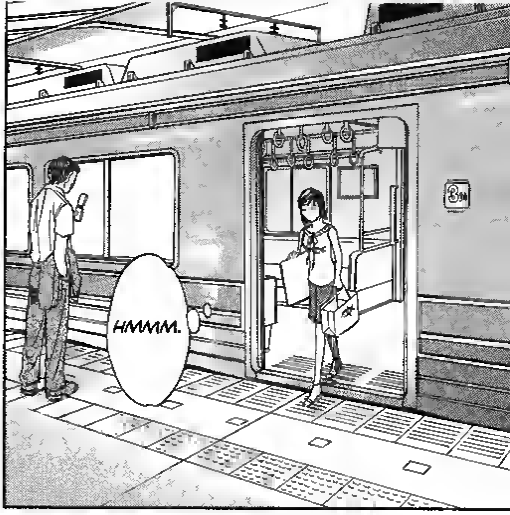
...I'LL TAKE THIS MANGA.
KINGYO-SAN.

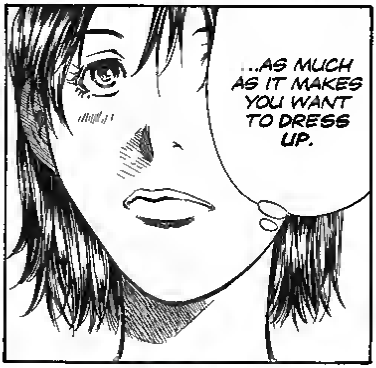
MISAKI!!!

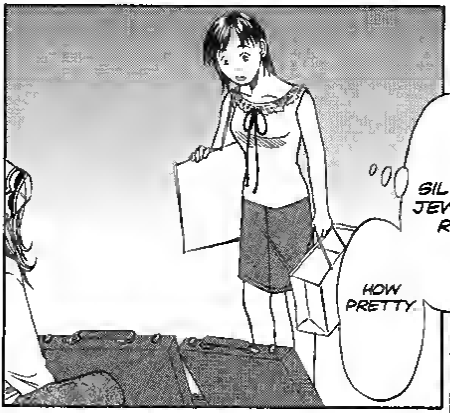
...SAKI...

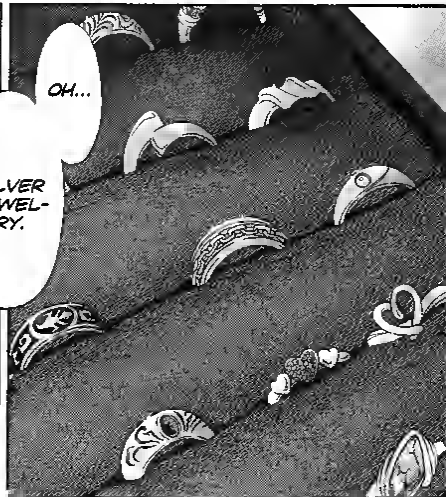
SORRY, WHAT?
MY STOP'S COMING UP.
OH. . SEE YOU LATER.
SEE YOU, MISAKI
MOON CRYSTAL POWER...
... MAKE-UP!
WHAT?
PSHHH
Pffft
tee hee
THAT IDIOT!
He draws enough attention to himself with that pointless beauty.

HON-
ESTLY,
THE
MANGA
DOESN'T
MAKE
YOU
WANT
TO
FIGHT...


HMMM.


...AS MUCH
AS IT MAKES
YOU WANT
TO DRESS
UP.


OH...
SILVER
JEWEL-
RY.
HOW
PRETTY.



HEY, THAT'S SAILOR MOON. HOW CUTE!
THE TRUTH IS...
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
CAN I LOOK?
YEAH, I READ IT IN GRADE SCHOOL.
THIS ?
...SO I WAS REALLY HAPPY TO SEE YOU.
Ha ha..
I'VE BEEN FEELING INSECURE SINCE THIS MORNING ...
...YOU'RE THE FIRST CUSTOMER I'VE HAD ALL DAY.
WHAT ?
It's already evening
OF COURSE.
OH.

I'M NOT THE ONLY GIRL WHO GREW UP ON THIS.
THE FIRST PRINT CLUB PHOTO BOOTHS CAME OUT WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
...AND WE ALL TOOK PICTURES WHERE WE TRIED TO GET OUR HAIR TO LOOK LIKE USAKO'S.
AS FOR ME ...
...WE WERE STUDYING ASTRONOMY AT THE TIME...
.. SO I DREW THE FACES OF THE SAILOR SCOUTS TO MEMORIZE THE NAMES OF THE PLANETS.
HEY!
WEL-COME!
SAILOR MOON!
DO YOU HAVE THE HEART-SHAPED MAGIC RING USAGI WORE?
I REALLY WANTED THAT AS A KID.

YOU DESIGN THESE YOUR-SELF?
Ha ha ha
BUT THERE MIGHT BE COPYRIGHT ISSUES, SO MAYBE NOT.
WHAT?
.. BUT MAYBE I'LL TRY MAKING ONE.
NOT RIGHT NOW...
THOSE ARE FIGHT-ING HANDS.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
NOT THE HANDS OF A PRETTY SAILOR SCOUT, HUH?
MY FINGERS ARE ALL BLACK.
YEAH.
HEY ...
...JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME...
I GET IT.
YEAH.

HA!
AS A CHILD I COULD TRANSFORM INTO ANY-THING I WANTED.
YEAH! TOTALLY!
DON'T YOU THINK DRESSING UP FEELS LIKE GOING INTO BATTLE MODE?
BUT WHEN I GOT OLDER I HAD TO BECOME SOMETHING FOR GOOD.
CHEER UP!
YOU CAN DO IT!
YOU CAN DO IT, FRIENDS!
YOU CAN DO IT, FAMILY!
YOU CAN DO IT, WORLD!
GO FOR IT! DON'T GIVE UP!
TO EVERY-ONE I HAVEN'T MET YET, CHEER UP!
OUR MANTRA IS...
...MOON COSMIC POWER...
...MAKEUP!

IT'S SOOTHING.
I LOVE THE MOON.
OH?
I WANT TO BE THE MOON.
MMM...
DO YOU WANT TO OWN THE MOON?
YOU THINK SO?
WOULDN'T IT BE A LITTLE LONELY?
YEAH?
BY THE WAY, MURAO-KUN, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU...
HUH?
YOU REALLY ARE A FREE SPIRIT AT HEART.

HOW DID YOU KNOW WHAT SAILOR MOON SAYS WHEN SHE MORPHS?
WE USED TO PASS THE MANGA AROUND IN CLASS.
OH, OF COURSE ...
...
WAIT. DIDN'T YOU GO TO AN ALL-BOYS SCHOOL?
BACK THEN, THERE WAS ALWAYS AT LEAST ONE GUY BUYING THE SERIES.
REALLY?
REALLY

Chapter 17: Same Time Tomorrow

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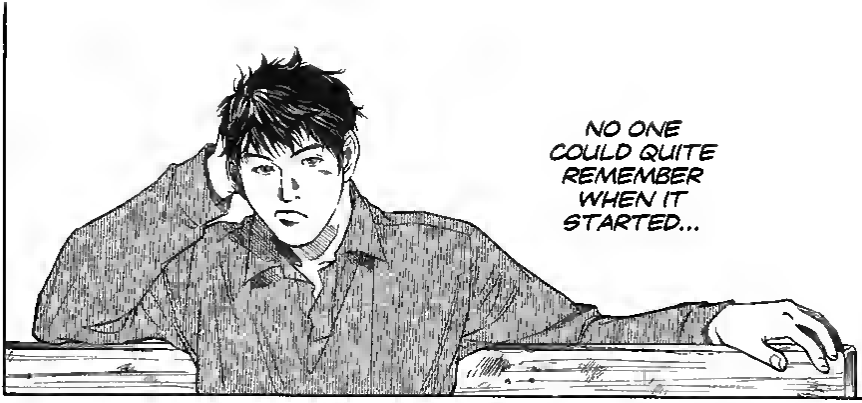
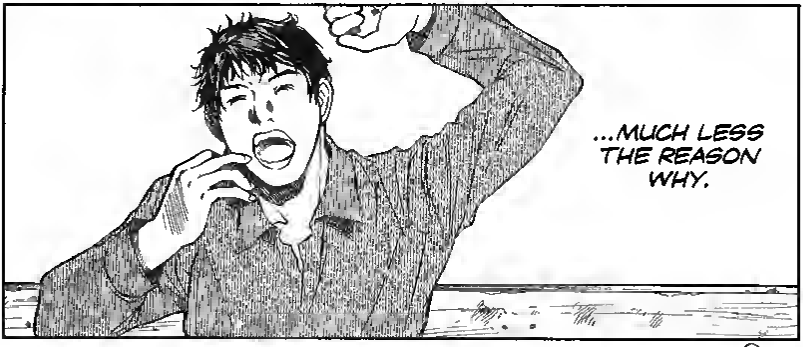
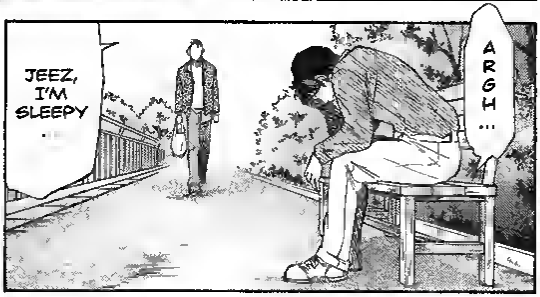

NO ONE COULD QUITE REMEMBER WHEN IT STARTED...


...MUCH LESS THE REASON WHY.

ANY MOVE-MENT ?
NONE.


JEEZ, I'M SLEEPY
ARGH ...

HEY.

NOT YET.
WHAT ABOUT SHIRATO-SAN?
WHAT WAS SHIRATO-SAN READING YESTER-DAY?
Shh
YOU NEVER CAME YESTER-DAY.
OPEN HOUSE AT MY YOUN-GEST'S SCHOOL.
A LONE SWORDSMAN NAMED MATSU-BAYASHI KENPUU IS ON A LONG AND ENDLESS JOURNEY...
WHAT'S IT ABOUT?
NINPOU HIWA· KEN-PUUKI.
HEY.
MAY I JOIN YOU?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
I'LL WAIT TO READ IT MYSELF.
WHOA! DON'T TELL ME THE REST!
WHEN AT LAST HE...

DOCTOR.
FEELING WELL, I HOPE?
NAH... DOCTORS NEVER PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH.
SO...
.. ANY MOVEMENT?
NO.
I DIDN'T THINK SO.
IT'S RARE NOT TO SEE SHIRATO-SAN.
HE'LL BE HERE SOON.
WHAT'S HE BEEN READING LATELY?
AS FAR AS LONGER SERIES GO...
RIGHT.
.. LAST WEEK IT WAS SASUKE.
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
A LONE YOUNG NINJA NAMED SASUKE IS ON A LONG AND ENDLESS JOURNEY...
SOUNDS INTERESTING.
THE NINJUTSU SCENES WILL GIVE YOU THE CHILLS.

IT'S SHIRATO-SAN
HEY.
...
WHAT'S HE DOING?
NOTH-ING.
WATARI.
TODAY'S BOOK?
...OH.
JUST WHAT THE HELL KIND OF PLACE IS THIS?
USU-ALLY, YEAH.
BUT THE MAIN GOAL OF THIS ZOO IS TO PROTECT ANIMALS AND PROVIDE THEM WITH A COMFORTABLE HABITAT.
I THOUGHT THE POINT OF A ZOO WAS TO SHOW YOU SOME ANIMALS!

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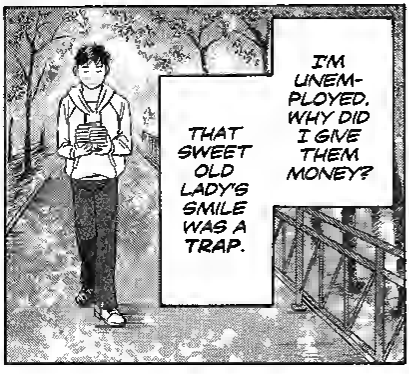
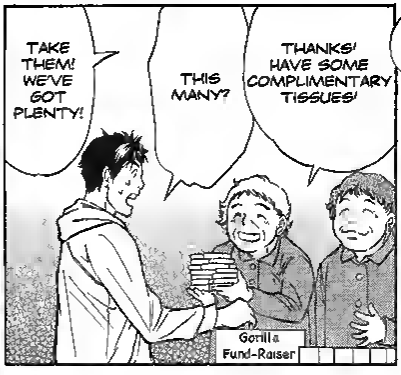
©SANPEI SHIRATO/AKAME PRO

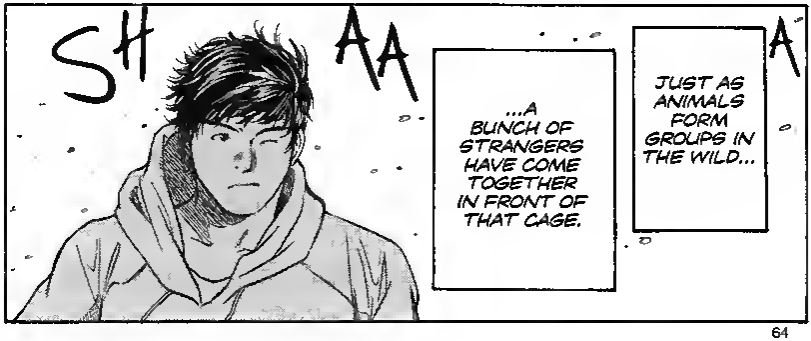
I KNOW THAT.
IF YOU WANT TO SEE THEM ALL, YOU HAVE TO KEEP VISITING.
LIKE ANIMALS IN THE WILD, IF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE ONE IN PASSING, YOU'RE LUCKY.
BUT THIS ONE...
EVEN THE SMALLER AND SHYER ANIMALS EVEN THE ALLIGATOR.
I'VE SEEN THEM ALL.
AND I'VE SEEN THEM. THE LION, THE LEOPARD.
DOES HE EVEN EXIST?
WHERE THE HELL IS HE?
THIS ONE REFUSES TO SHOW HIMSELF.

THE WOLF INSIDE THIS CAGE...

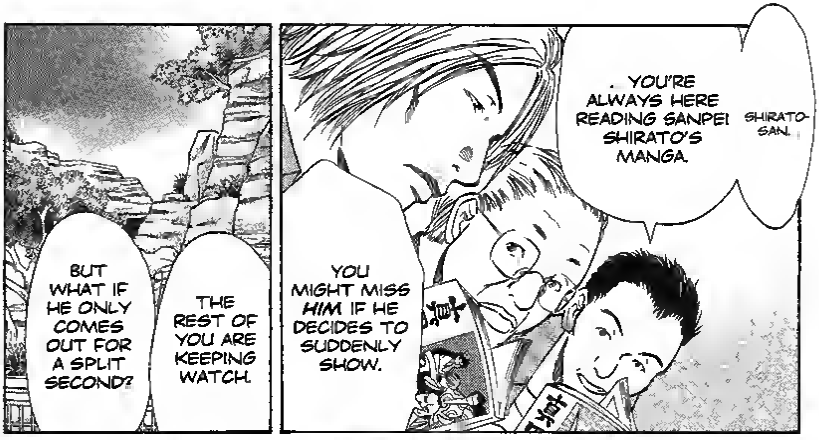
キラキラ動物公園
KIRARA ZOO
A GORILLA FUND-RAISER?
ANY AMOUNT IS APPRECIATED.


I'M UNEMPLOYED. WHY DID I GIVE THEM MONEY?
THAT SWEET OLD LADY'S SMILE WAS A TRAP.

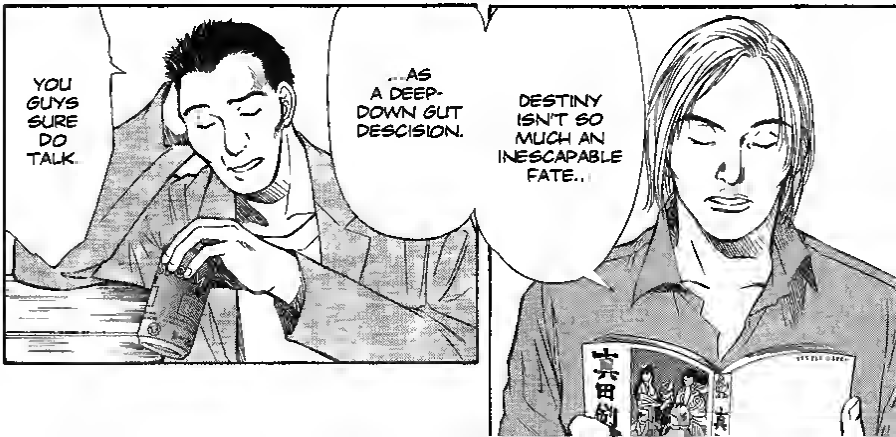

TAKE THEM! WE'VE GOT PLENTY!
THIS MANY?
THANKS! HAVE SOME COMPLIMENTARY TISSUES!
CHIME
Gorilla Fund-Raiser


SH
AA
...A BUNCH OF STRANGERS HAVE COME TOGETHER IN FRONT OF THAT CAGE.
JUST AS ANIMALS FORM GROUPS IN THE WILD...
A

THEY'RE ALIVE.
WOH
WOH
YOU RARELY SEE THE ANIMALS ..
KI
KI
KAAW
...BUT YOU CAN ALWAYS HEAR THEIR CRIES
CHIRP
CHIRP
THEY'RE SOME-WHERE OUT THERE.
OH!
OH!
HOWWL
FAT CHANCE
THERE IS
THERE ISN'T ANY WOLF IN THERE.
IT'S A BLUFF
THAT ISN'T IT.
BECAUSE THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE TO GO
THEN WHY DO YOU ALWAYS COME HERE?
PARDON ME.
DON'T TALK LIKE YOU KNOW ME.

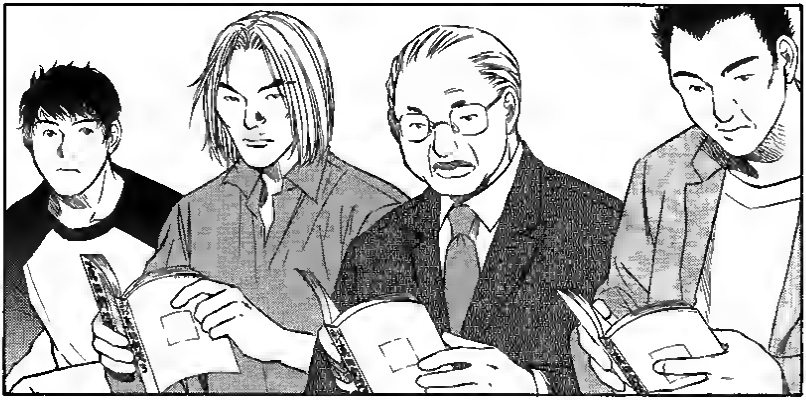

BUT WHAT IF HE ONLY COMES OUT FOR A SPLIT SECOND?
THE REST OF YOU ARE KEEPING WATCH.
YOU MIGHT MISS HIM IF HE DECIDES TO SUDDENLY SHOW.
. YOU'RE ALWAYS HERE READING SANPEI SHIRATO'S MANGA.
SHIRATO-SAN.

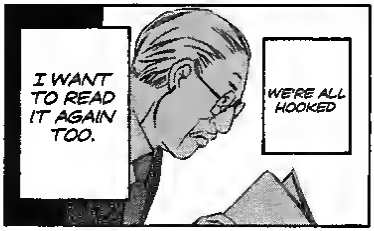
THAT IS THE CASE SOME-TIMES.
YES.
DES-TINY?
...THAT'S DESTINY.

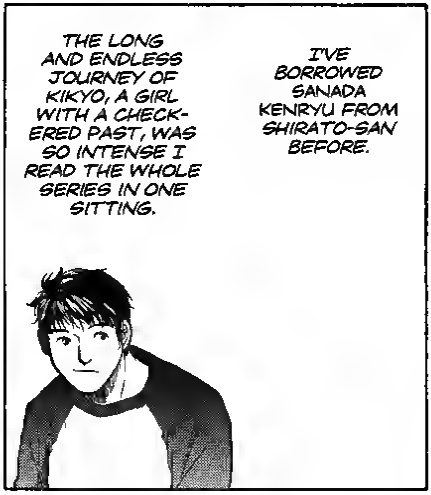

YOU GUYS SURE DO TALK.
...AS A DEEP-DOWN GUT DESCISION.
DESTINY ISN'T SO MUCH AN INESCAPABLE FATE..

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED.
ME?

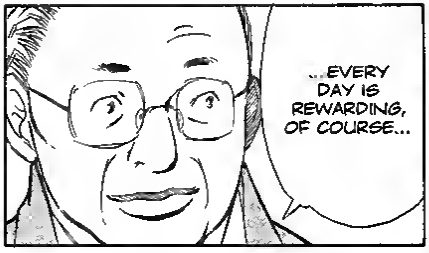
WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE READING?
SANADA KENRYU.
MIND IF I LOOK, SHIRATO-SAN?
BE MY GUEST.

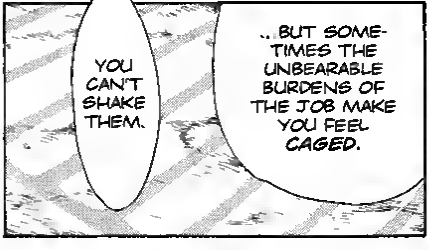



I WANT TO READ IT AGAIN TOO.
WE'RE ALL HOOKED


I'VE BORROWED SANADA KENRYU FROM SHIRATO-SAN BEFORE.
THE LONG AND ENDLESS JOURNEY OF KIKYO, A GIRL WITH A CHECKERED PAST, WAS SO INTENSE I READ THE WHOLE SERIES IN ONE SITTING.

DESTINY...

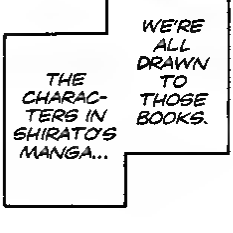

...EVERY DAY IS REWARDING, OF COURSE...


YOU CAN'T SHAKE THEM.
.. BUT SOMETIMES THE UNBEARABLE BURDENS OF THE JOB MAKE YOU FEEL CAGED.

WHEN YOU'VE BEEN A DOCTOR FOR AS LONG AS I HAVE...
IS THAT WHAT BRINGS ME HERE NOW?

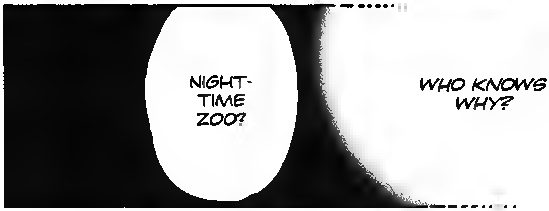
AND NOW I HAVE THE ADDED PLEASURE OF READING FROM SHIRATO-SAN'S COLLECTION

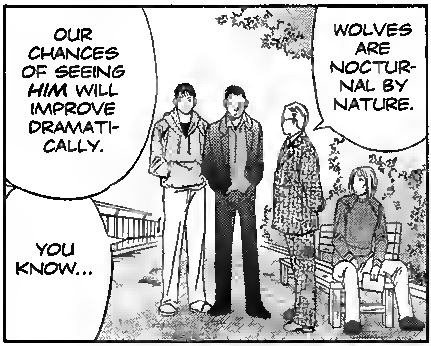
I DEAL WITH HUMAN LIFE AS MY CAREER, BUT I FIND COMFORT IN THE PLACES WHERE LIVES CONNECT.
THAT'S WHEN I FIND MYSELF COMING HERE.
IT'S ALMOST IRONIC

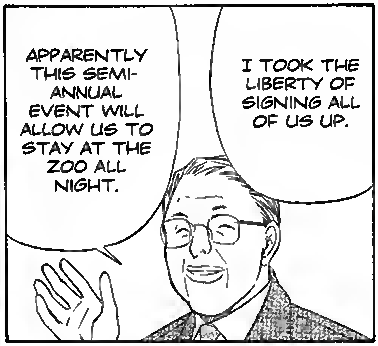

THE CHARACTERS IN SHIRATO'S MANGA...
WE'RE ALL DRAWN TO THOSE BOOKS.

..NEVER GIVE UP THEIR WANDERINGS

WE WAIT FOR THE LONE WOLF INSIDE THE TINY CAGE
WE CON-TINUE TO WAIT.
WE READ AS WE LINGER HERE


NIGHT-TIME ZOO?
WHO KNOWS WHY?

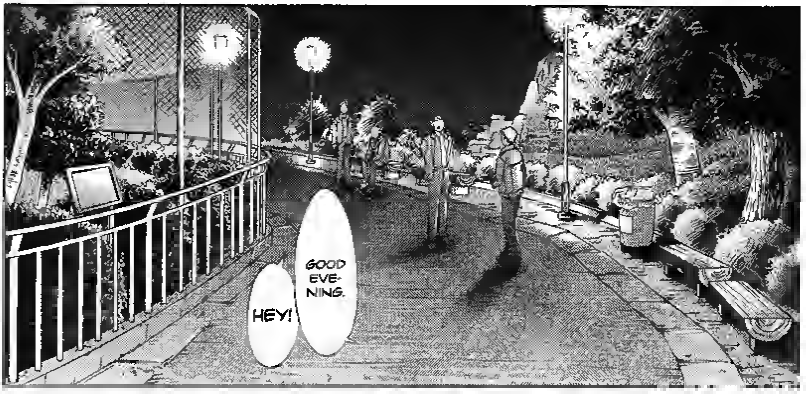

OUR CHANCES OF SEEING HIM WILL IMPROVE DRAMATI-CALLY.
WOLVES ARE NOCTUR-NAL BY NATURE.
YOU KNOW...

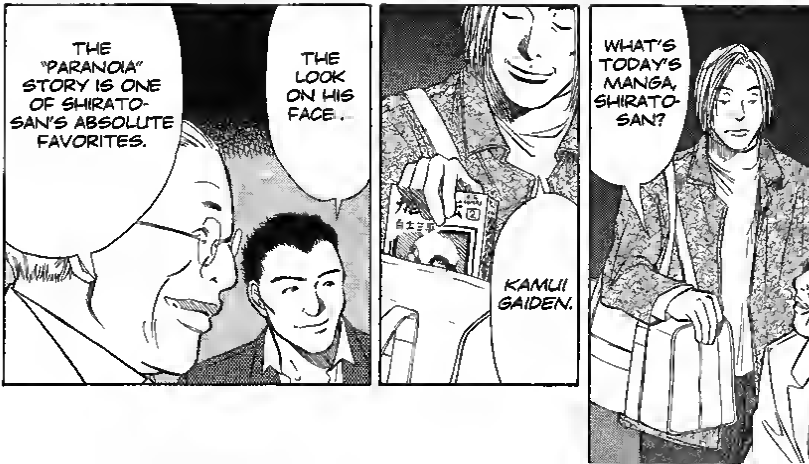

APPARENTLY THIS SEMI-ANNUAL EVENT WILL ALLOW US TO STAY AT THE ZOO ALL NIGHT.
I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF SIGNING ALL OF US UP.

IN CONTRAST TO THE MYTH OF THE "LONE WOLF," THEY OBSERVE THE STRICTEST PACK HIERARCHY OF ANY ANIMAL.

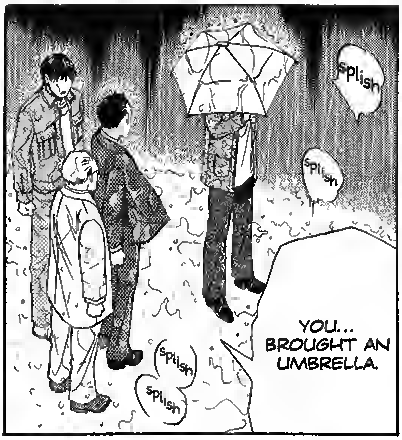
HUH?
WOLVES ARE VERY SOCIAL

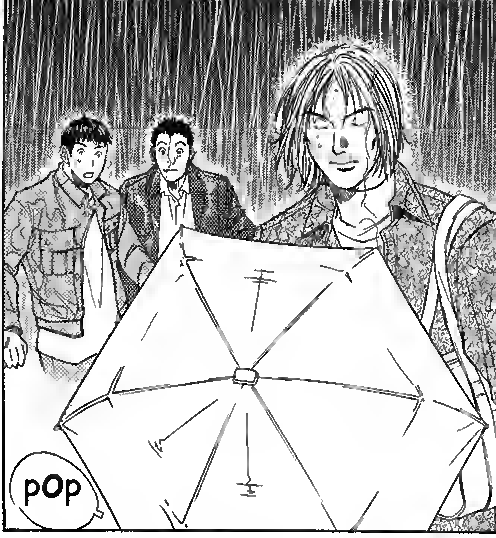
ARE YOU OKAY?
... YES.
MAYBE SOME ANIMALS CAN'T EXIST WITHOUT BELONGING TO A GROUP.

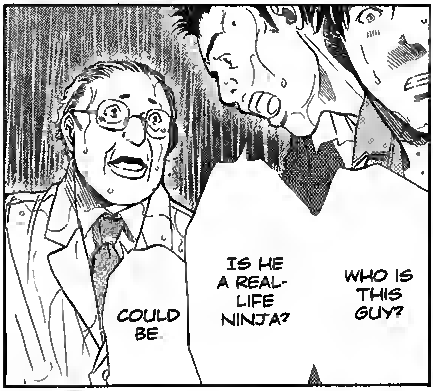

HEY!
GOOD EVE-NING.


THE "PARANOIA" STORY IS ONE OF SHIRATO-SAN'S ABSOLUTE FAVORITES.
THE LOOK ON HIS FACE...
KAMUI GAIDEN.
WHAT'S TODAY'S MANGA, SHIRATO-SAN?

plip
plip
plip
plip
plip
SHIRATO-SAN'S PREPARED TO GO ALL NIGHT.
SHAAA
WHOA!
FWASH
BADOOM
EEEK!
HURRY!


splish
splish
splish
splish
YOU... BROUGHT AN UMBRELLA.


pop


COULD BE.
IS HE A REAL-LIFE NINJA?
WHO IS THIS GUY?

I COVERED MY BOOKS IN PLASTIC TOO.
IT SMELLED LIKE RAIN AS I WAS HEADING OUT.

SHAAAA
BADOOM
WHOA!

AH..
AH!
HUH?
THERE!!

LOOK UP..
LOOK! OVER THERE!
WHAT? WHAT IS IT?
HYOOOO
...THERE!

FWASH
WH..
WHOA! YEAH!
THERE HE IS!
I SEE YOU!
WHERE?
HE'S REAL!
LOOK, SHIRATO-SAN!
IT'S HIM!
YOU SEE HIM?
...YEAH.
I SEE HIM.
ALL RIGHT!

GET OUTTA HERE!!
HEY!
HE'S LEAV-ING!
SO LONG!
GRRTRRRM
WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?
THIS IS THE LAST I'LL SEE OF THIS CAGE, HUH?
THANKS.
IT'S BEEN FUN.

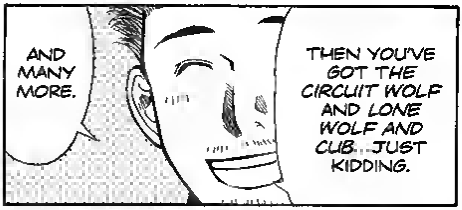
SEE YA, SHIRATO-SAN.
SURE
YUP.
GOOD-BYE.
IF I CAUGHT A COLD FROM THIS, MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU.
THE SAME THINGS I DO EVERY DAY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU'RE LIKE A BIG KID ANYWAY.
HUH ?
I'M A PEDIA-TRICIAN BY TRADE.
I... DIDN'T SEE HIM.
I...
woh
woh
...
KYA
KYA
KI
KI

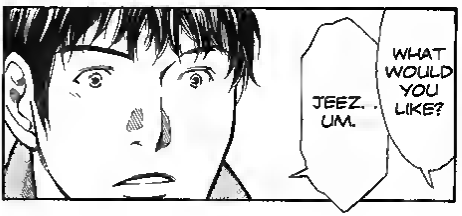
SHAAA
PIP
...THAT'S DESTINY.
YOU MIGHT MISS HIM IF HE DECIDES TO SUDDENLY SHOW.
I CAN'T GET ANY MORE SOAKED THAN I AM ALREADY.
WHAT AM I DOING?
sell your manga
Kingyo Used Books

WEL-
COME.
Sell your manga
CAN I HELP YOU FIND SOME-THING?
UM..
I MAY NOT BE OF MUCH HELP.
THE REGULAR CLERKS ARE OUT BUYING BOOKS TODAY.
MAYBE I SHOULD BRING YOU A TOWEL FIRST.
UH...

STUMP

TRL: MS. FOXY BY DAVID TOSAWA, ART BY KYUTA ISHIKAWA. THE STORY OF A WOLF CALLED IBA-NU, FEATURED IN WEEKLY MONTHLY MAGAZINE IN 1988. THE CIRCUIT WOLF AND LONE WOLF AND CUB HAVE THE WORD "WOLF" (OOKAMI) IN THE TITLE BUT DON'T ACTUALLY FEATURE WOLVES.





STUDY!

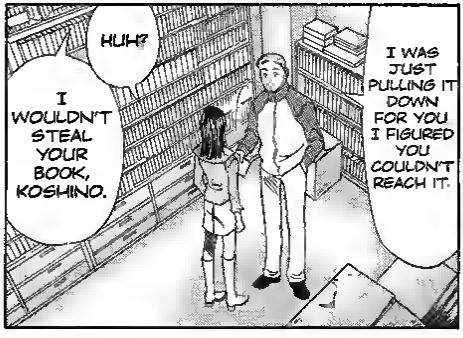
WHITE FANG (SHIROI KIBA) IS A STORY ABOUT A TUNDRA WOLF BY TOSHIHIRO TAKAHASHI. SERIALIZED IN WEEKLY SHONEN SUNDAY EXTRA EDITION FROM 1993 TO 1994. THE CIRCUIT WOLF (KAIKETSU KUROKAGE) IS A STORY ABOUT A WOLF RAISED BY HUMANS BY OSAMU TEZUKA. SERIALIZED IN BIG COMICS FROM 1974. VAMPIRE BY OSAMU TEZUKA. SERIALIZED IN WEEKLY SHONEN SUNDAY FROM 1965 TO 66. THE CIRCUIT WOLF (KAIKETSU KUROKAGE) IS A STORY ABOUT A WOLF RAISED BY HUMANS BY OSAMU TEZUKA. SERIALIZED IN BIG COMICS FROM 1974. VAMPIRE BY OSAMU TEZUKA. SERIALIZED IN WEEKLY SHONEN SUNDAY FROM 1965 TO 66. LONE WOLF AND CUB (KOGUMA KOKAMI) STORY BY KAZUO KOIKE, ART BY GOSEKI KOJIMA. SERIALIZED IN MANGA ACTION FROM 1970.

...
WHAT IS IT ABOUT?
A LONE WHITE WOLF..
.. IS ON A LONG AND ENDLESS JOURNEY..
EXACT-LY.
THAT'S ...
... DESTI-NY.
I'LL GO...
...BACK AGAIN TO-MOR-ROW.
I'LL TAKE THIS ONE.

Chapter 18:
The Kingyo Diaries
(The Yamabuki Episode)

Kingyoya Diary
LATEST ENTRY: SINCE THE AUTUMN GRANDPA CHARGED ME WITH MANAGING KINGYO USED BOOKS...
...I'VE GROWN ACCUS-TOMED TO THE DAILY DUTIES OF THE STORE.
SOME-TIMES ...
...I WRITE ABOUT THE VARIOUS GOINGS-ON AT KINGYO.

ABOUT THE CRAZY TIME WE GOT A TON OF NEW BOOKS IN THE STORE.
ABOUT RETURN-ING A DOG THAT WANDERED INTO THE STORE TO ITS OWNER.
I'VE WRITTEN ABOUT ALL THE MELLOW DAYS AT KINGYO.
A RECORD OF ALL THE WEIRD DESIGNS ON SHIBA-SAN'S SHIRTS
THE SMELL OF SWEET OSMAN-THUS ..
.. SIGNAL-ING THE CHANGE ..
..IN SEASONS
WELL ...
...THE LATEST NEWS IS ALL ABOUT...
...THESE TWO.
SUN-NINE IS MINE!

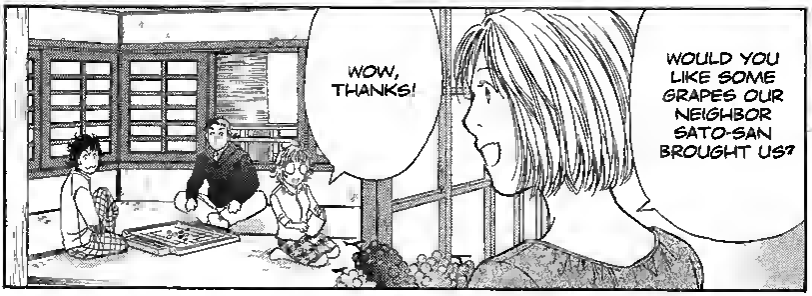


STUDY! SUN-RINE OR TAIYO NO KO SUN RINE BY YOJI YAMAKAWA, PUBLISHED IN THREE VOLUMES UNDER HUEISHA'S COMPACT COMICS IMPRINT BEGINNING IN 1967

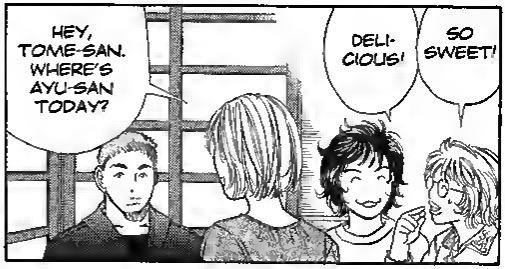
...AND TOME-SAN, A FELLOW SEDORI.
YOU'RE WEL-COME.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN THIS STORE?
I DUNNO. JUST KINDA WANDERED IN.
I'M A SEDORI, RE-MEM-BER?
WAAH
HEY! THOSE GLAZED EYES OF YOURS FOUND TWO COPIES OF ROCKET MAN! I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN AROUND YOU!
LISTEN! DON'T FOLLOW ME AROUND, OKAY?
YOU'RE THE ENEMY!
A BUSI-NESS RIVAL!

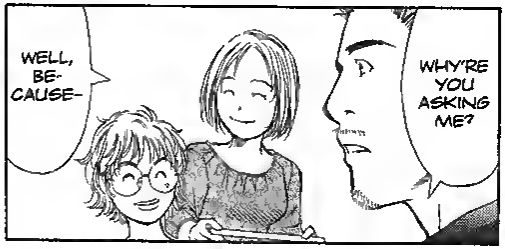
ROCKET MAN BY YUGOSHI HIZUKI. HIZUKI'S FIRST BOOK-LENGTH MANGA, PUBLISHED UNDER THE PEN NAME SHINICHIRO AZUMA, BY GAGATSUKI SHOBOU IN 1957.

KINKO-CHAN?
YES?
TOME-SAN'S COMMENT ...
...SET THE WHEELS INTO MOTION.
Kingyo Used Books


WOW, THANKS!
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME GRAPES OUR NEIGHBOR SATO-SAN BROUGHT US?

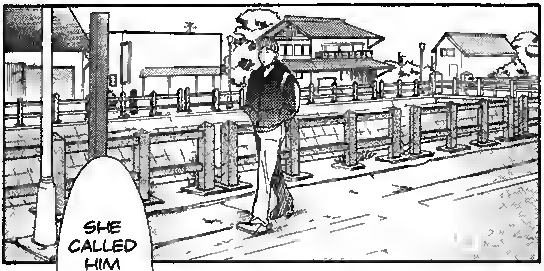
I DON'T KNOW.

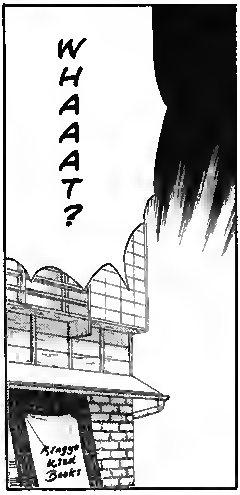

HEY, TOME-SAN. WHERE'S AYU-SAN TODAY?
DELI-CIOUS!
SO SWEET!

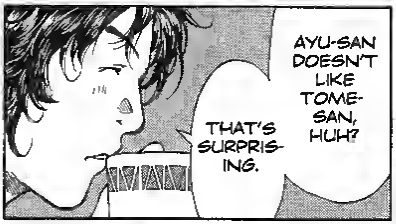

WELL, BE-CAUSE-
WHY'RE YOU ASKING ME?

I ALWAYS SEEM TO BE FALLING OUT OF HER FAVOR.

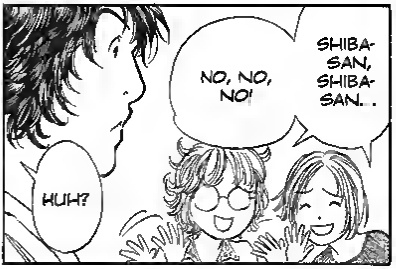
HUH?
GRF

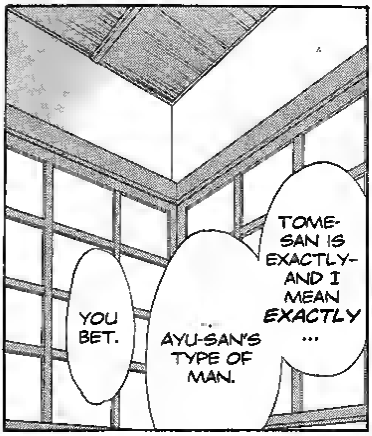

SHE CALLED HIM HER RIVAL?

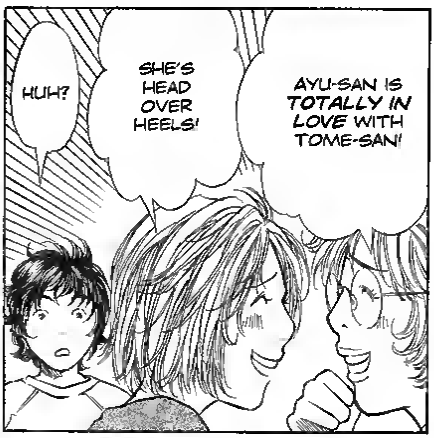

WHAAAT?
Kinoya Kind Books

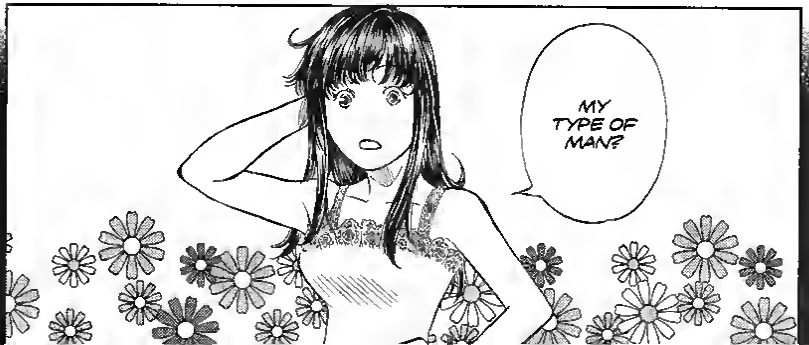

AYU-SAN DOESN'T LIKE TOME-SAN, HUH?
THAT'S SURPRISING.

AH..
POOR TOME-SAN..
BUT TOME-SAN TOOK HER REALLY SERIOUSLY
SHE'S ALWAYS SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT..

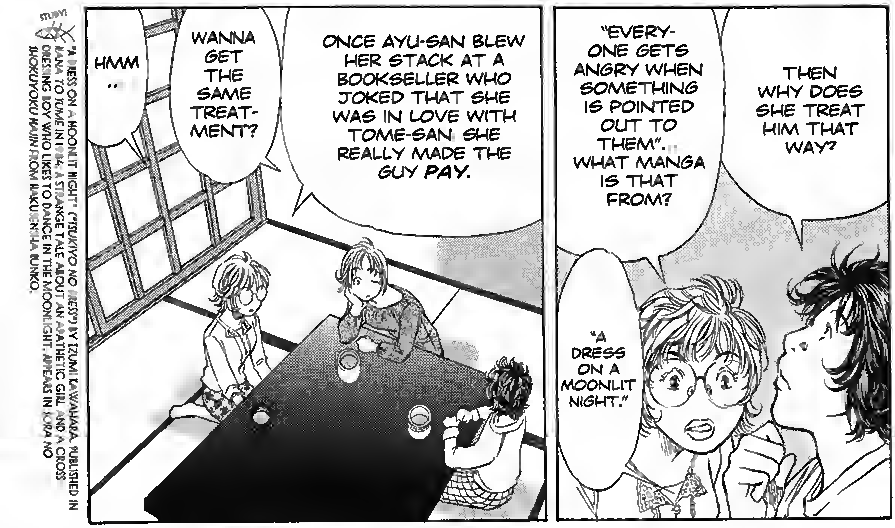

SHIBA-SAN, SHIBA-SAN..
NO, NO, NO!
HUH?


TOME-SAN IS EXACTLY- AND I MEAN EXACTLY ...
AYU-SAN'S TYPE OF MAN.
YOU BET.

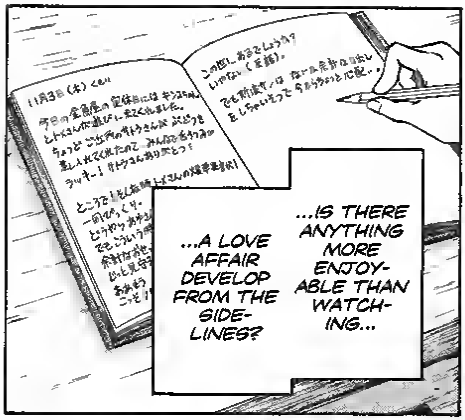

HUH?
SHE'S HEAD OVER HEELS!
AYU-SAN IS TOTALLY IN LOVE WITH TOME-SAN!

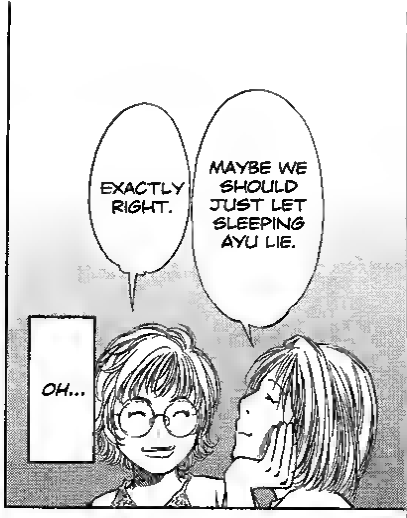

MY TYPE OF MAN?

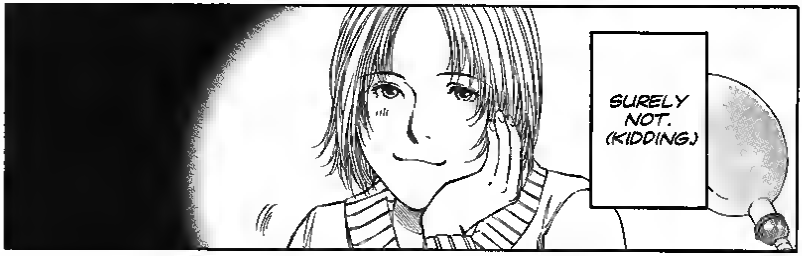
HE'D HAVE TO BE REALLY KIND...
...GENTLE AND DEPEND ABLE...
THP
I CAN BE PRETTY SELFISH.
HMM.
...AND HE'D HAVE TO BE CRAZY ABOUT MANGA!!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE TOME-SAN, ALL RIGHT.


HMM...
WANNA GET THE SAME TREAT-MENT?
ONCE AYU-SAN BLEW HER STACK AT A BOOKSELLER WHO JOKED THAT SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH TOME-SAN. SHE REALLY MADE THE GUY PAY.
"EVERY-ONE GETS ANGRY WHEN SOMETHING IS POINTED OUT TO THEM"... WHAT MANGA IS THAT FROM?
THEN WHY DOES SHE TREAT HIM THAT WAY?
"A DRESS ON A MOONLIT NIGHT."

*1 "A DRESS ON A MOONLIT NIGHT" ("TSUKIYO NO DOREPPU") BY IZUMI KAWAHARA. PUBLISHED IN MANA TO TOME IN 1994. A STRANGE TALE ABOUT AN APATHETIC GIRL AND A CROSS-DRESSING BOY WHO LIKES TO DANCE IN THE MOONLIGHT. APPEARS IN SORA NO HOKOROKU MANGA FROM BUKU-SHA BUNKO.


...A LOVE AFFAIR DEVELOP FROM THE SIDE-LINES?
...IS THERE ANYTHING MORE ENJOY-ABLE THAN WATCH-INGS...

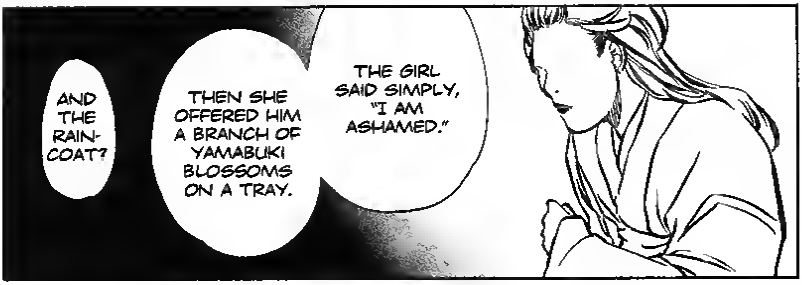

EXACTLY RIGHT.
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST LET SLEEPING AYU LIE.
OH...

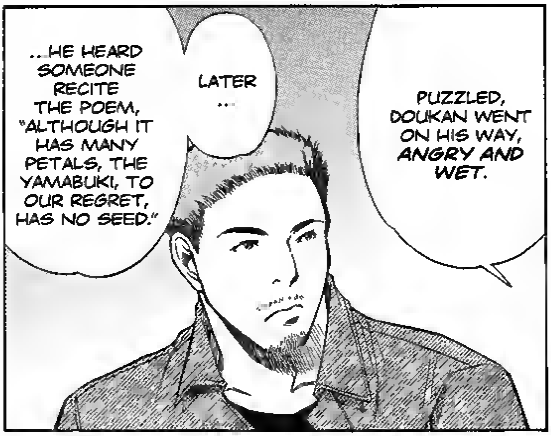

SURELY NOT. (KIDDING)

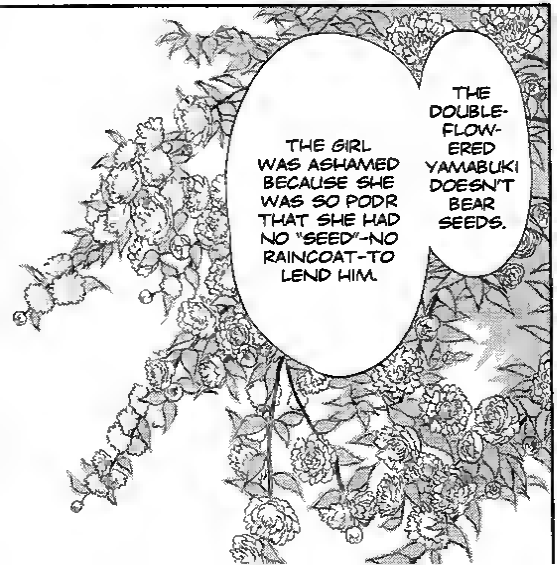
OH, I GOT ONE!!

I CAN'T SEEM TO GET HER TO UNDERSTAND MINE.
HEARTS
"AYU-CHAN"?
WORRIED ABOUT AYU-CHAN?
YOU LOOK DOWN, TOME-SAN.
EVERY MANGA-LOVING GIRL IS A GIRLFRIEND IN MY HEART.
YOU'RE ON AWFULLY FRIENDLY TERMS WITH HER.
SHE PUTS ME THROUGH AGONY BUT I CAN'T STAY AWAY.
JUST WHEN I THINK SHE'S WARMING UP TO ME, SHE GIVES ME THE COLD SHOULDER.
HUH!?
"TOME-SAN.."
OHH ...
SHE'S LIKE A PRINCESS.

EVEN A SEDORI CAN WAX POETIC WHEN HE'S IN LOVE.
SHIBA-SAN TOLD ME THAT LATER ON.
MUNCH MUNCH
"... SOUNDED LIKE A POET."
HUH?
SINCE YOU'RE BOTH SEDORI, WHY NOT CONVEY YOUR FEELINGS THROUGH MANGA?
HERE'S AN IDEA.
MM?
TOME-SAN.
A BEAUTI-FUL GIRL CAME OUT OF THE HOUSE.
DOUKAN WAS CAUGHT IN A RAINSTORM IN MUSASHINO AND STOPPED AT A HOUSE TO BORROW A RAINCOAT.
NO.
DO YOU KNOW THE STORY OF OTA DOUKAN AND THE YAMABUKI FLOWER?
WHAT'RE YOU GETTING AT, NAO-SAN?



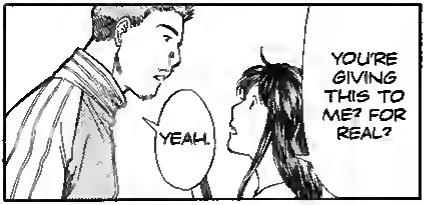

..HE HEARD SOMEONE RECITE THE POEM, "ALTHOUGH IT HAS MANY PETALS, THE YAMABUKI, TO OUR REGRET, HAS NO SEED."
LATER ...
PUZZLED, DOUKAN WENT ON HIS WAY, ANGRY AND WET.


THE GIRL WAS ASHAMED BECAUSE SHE WAS SO POOR THAT SHE HAD NO "SEED"-NO RAINCOAT-TO LEND HIM.
THE DOUBLE-FLOWERED YAMABUKI DOESN'T BEAR SEEDS.

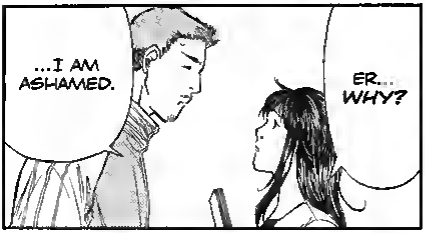
★THE GIRL'S LINE IS A PUN ON *MINO HITOTSU MO NAI* (HAVE NO RAINCOAT) AND *MI NO HITSOTSU MO NAI* (HAVE NO SEED).

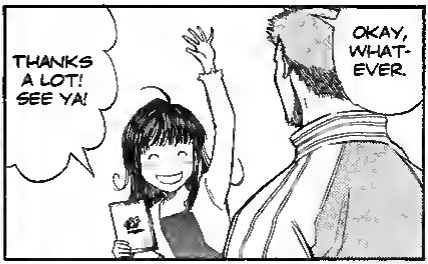
WAIT! YOU WANT ME TO GIVE HER FLOWERS?
I SEE...
THE GESTURE WAS A SIGN OF HER REFINEMENT.
TOME-SAN.
EVEN A BUNDLE OF PAPER CAN CONVEY THE GIVER'S FEELINGS...
MM?
BY THE WAY, SHIBA-SAN...
I SURE HOPE SO.
I THINK I GAVE SOME GOOD ADVICE TODAY, NATSUKI-SAN.

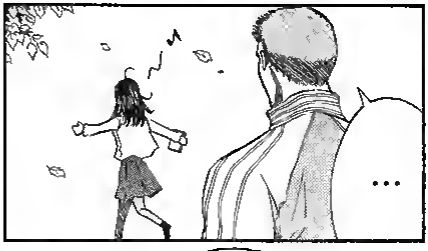
★A COMIC STRIP BY MACHIKO HASEGAWA THAT RAN IN NEWSPAPERS FROM 1946 TO 1974. SAZAE-SAN IS ONE OF THE BEST-LOVED MANGA IN JAPAN.



WOW!! A FIRST-EDITION, NEAR-MINT LUPIN III!!
IT'S SO HARD TO GET A FIRST EDITION OF THE FIRST VOLUME OF ANY POPULAR SERIES IN NEAR-MINT CONDITION!

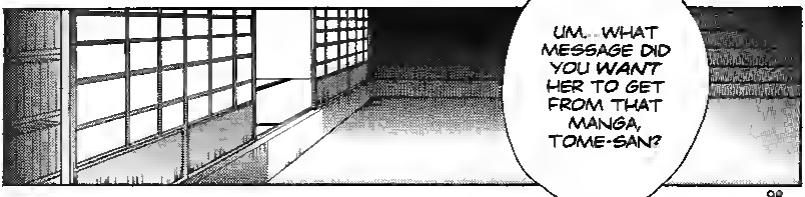


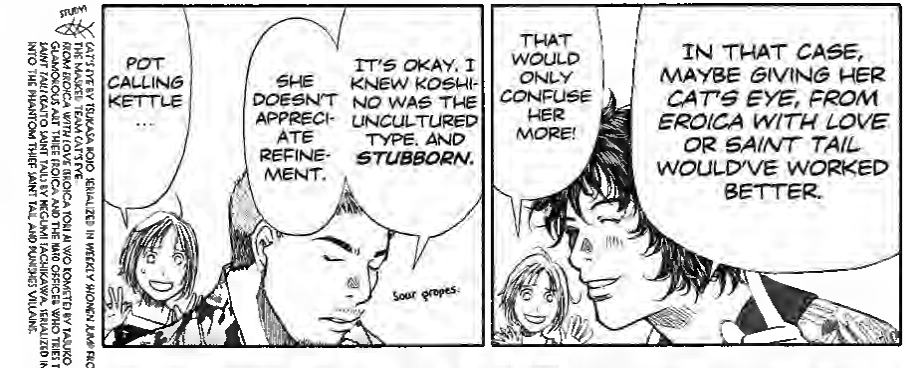


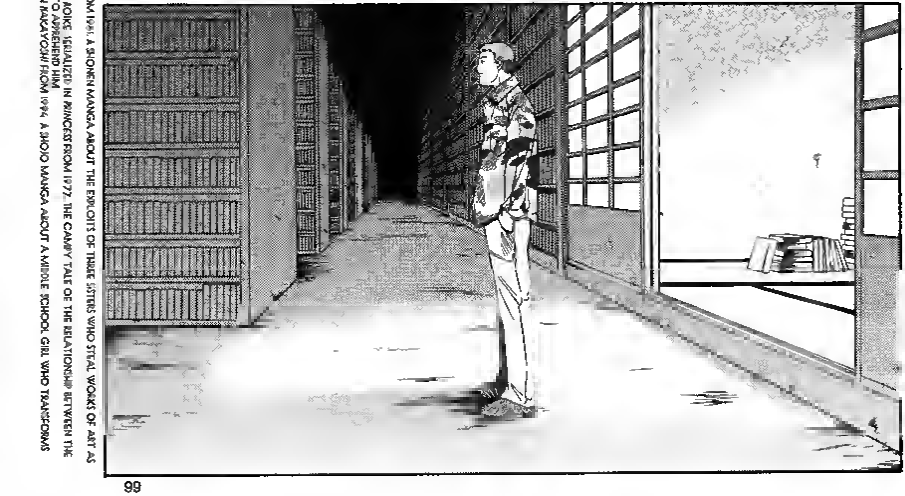


STUDY!

LUPIN III (LUPIN SANSEI) BY MONKEY PUNCH, SERIALIZED IN THE FUTABASHA MAGAZINE WEEKLY MANGA ACTION FROM 1967 ONWARD. THE FIRST TANKOBON WAS PUBLISHED IN 1968. EVERYONE IN JAPAN KNOWS THIS ACTION COMEDY ABOUT AN INTERNATIONAL THIEF. ADAPTED INTO AN ANIME SERIES IN 1972 AND A LIVE ACTION FILM IN 1974.




IN THAT CASE, MAYBE GIVING HER CAT'S EYE, FROM EROICA WITH LOVE OR SAINT TAIL WOULD'VE WORKED BETTER.
THAT WOULD ONLY CONFUSE HER MORE!
IT'S OKAY, I KNEW KOSHINO WAS THE UNCULTURED TYPE. AND STUBBORN.
SHE DOESN'T APPRECIATE REFINEMENT.
POT CALLING KETTLE ...
Sour grapes.



STUDY!

CAT'S EYE BY TSUKASA KOJO. SERIALIZED IN WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP FROM 1981. A SHONEN MANGA ABOUT THE EXPLOITS OF THREE SISTERS WHO STEAL WORKS OF ART AS THE MASKED TEAM CAT'S EYE.

FROM EROICA WITH LOVE EROICA YORI AI WO KOMETE BY FUJIKO AOKIE. SERIALIZED IN PRINCESS FROM 1977. THE CAMPY TALE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GORGEOUS THIEF EROICA AND THE DETECTIVE WHO'S ALWAYS ON HIS TAIL.

SAINT TAIL (SEINTO TEIRU) BY MEGUMI TACHIKAWA. SERIALIZED IN RIBON FROM 1994. A SHOJO MANGA ABOUT A MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL WHO TRANSFORMS INTO THE PHANTOM THIEF SAINT TAIL AND RAISES VILLAINS.

THAT'S WHY IT FEELS SO GOOD GETTING LOST IN THE SEA OF SHELVES
NOTHING IN THIS WORLD HAS CLEAR AND CONSIS-TENT WORTH.
THE VALUE OF THINGS CHANGES CON-STANTLY.

NAO-SAN...
HM?
I'VE READ A LOT OF MANGA OVER THE YEARS.
YEAH.
NOT AS MANY AS YOU, BUT QUITE A FEW.

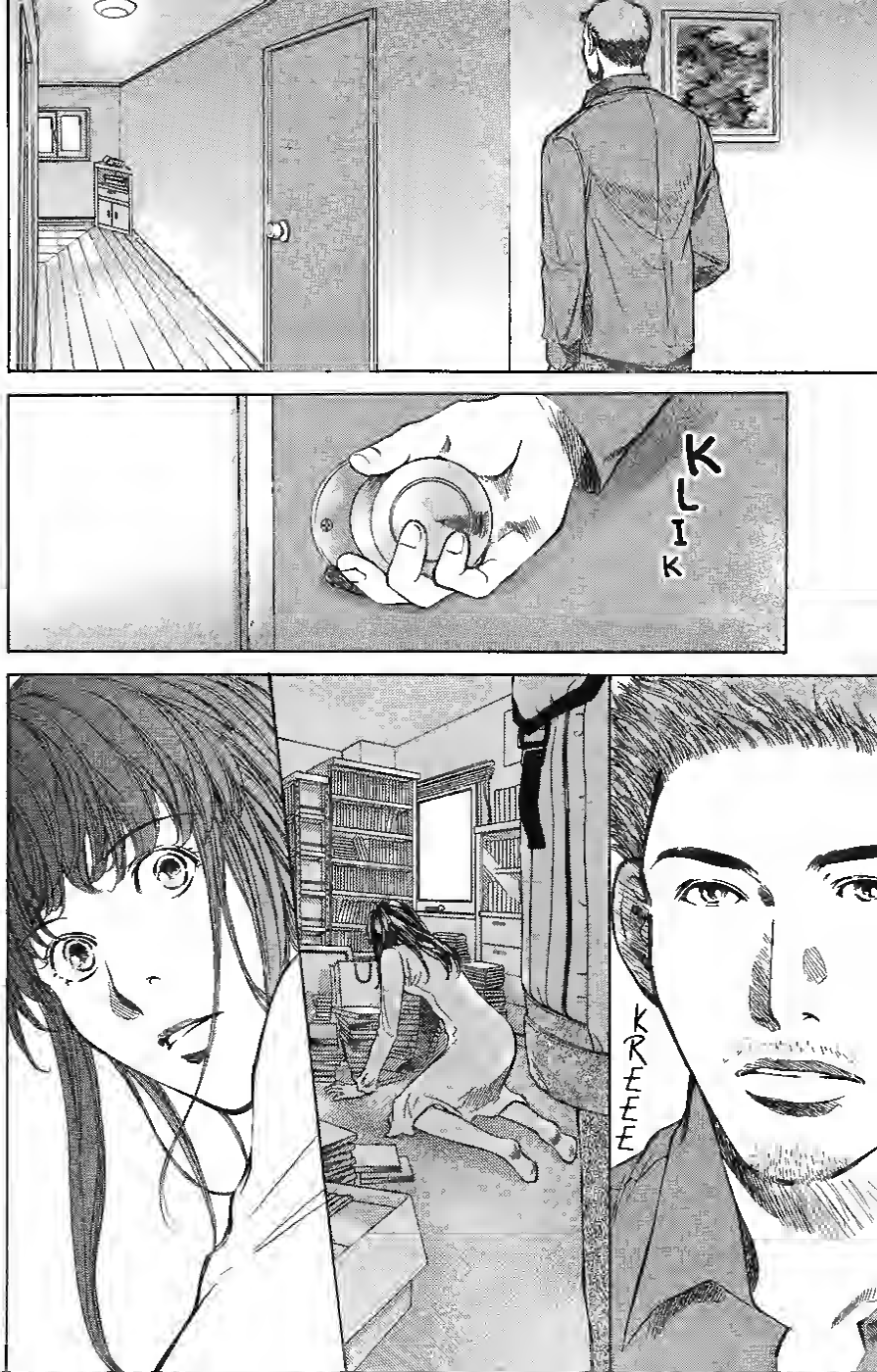
NOT ONE BOOK CAN HELP.

.. ALL THE MANGA I'VE READ ARE USE-LESS.
... AGAINST THE POWER OF ONE WOMAN...
BUT NOW ..

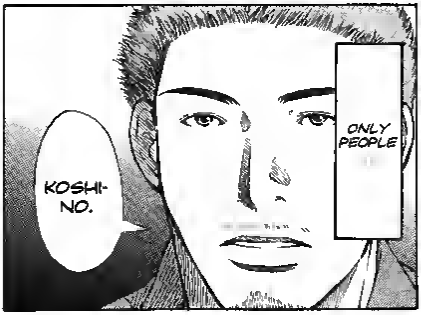
ARE MANGA POWER-LESS?
MAYBE SO.
IT'D BE GREAT IF I COULD WIN NATSUKI-SAN'S HEART THROUGH MANGA...
...BUT THAT WOULD BE WRONG.
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PUT YOUR FEELINGS IN A MANGA...
...BUT YOU CAN'T CONTROL WHAT *OTHER* PEOPLE FEEL.
BUT THE OWNER ONCE TOLD ME SOME-THING.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
HE SAID, "MANGA AREN'T POWER-LESS.
"ONLY THE PEOPLE WHO READ THEM.
"BUT..."

...MANGA TELL YOU THAT IT'S OKAY TO FEEL POWERLESS SOMETIMES.
PEOPLE READ THAT MESSAGE AND REGAIN THEIR COURAGE.
NAO-SAN...
...I GUESS WE'RE BOTH STILL PUPS.
YEAH.

ZZZK
ZZZK
CLAP CLAP
ZZZK
ZZZK


KLIK
KREEE

KOSHINO?
YIKES!
DARN, IT'S YOU.
THEY ASKED YOU TO CLEAR OUT THIS ROOM TOO?
SO YOU'RE THE OTHER "RELIABLE SEDORI" THEY MENTIONED.
WHAT AN IMPRESSIVE COLLECTION.
I WONDER WHY THEY HAVE TO LET IT GO.
SOUNDS LIKE THEY HAD THEIR REASONS
YEAH
WELL, THEN!
OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE COLLECTOR, LET'S SHOW WHAT A COUPLE OF TOP-NOTCH SEDORI CAN DO!
OKAY.
WHOA! A PERFECT RUMIKO TAKAHASHI COLLECTION!
HEY!



STUDY! MAISON IKKOKU BY KAMIKO TAKAHASHI SERIALIZED IN WEEKLY SHONEN SUNDAY MAGAZINE FROM 1980 TO 1987. THE MAGAZINE ABOVE IS BIG COMIC ORIGINAL WHICH BEGAN THE SERIES BEGINNING IN 2005

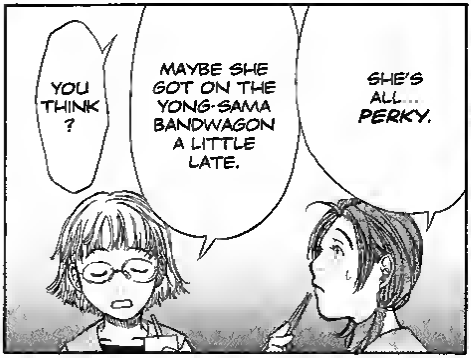
WHAT?
BUT...A GUY WOULDN'T HAVE MUCH TO GAIN BY DATING ME.
WHAT'S IT MATTER? GAIN OR LOSE..
HUH?
BECAUSE IT MIGHT BE FUN.
YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING LIKE THAT.
BUT WHY...?
YOU'RE LIKE A MANGA...
...I HAVEN'T READ YET.
I'M CURIOUS TO KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN..
NEXT.
...
TUP
YOU'RE SO WEIRD
EEK!
BA
BOO

MY GAIN.
HEY...

MAYBE I WAS RECK-LESS.
IT JUST KIND OF HAP-PENED.
THAT WAS FAST!
WHAT?
SORRY, NAO-SAN.
..IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
YOU BLEW RIGHT PAST ME...
ZOOOM!
YEAH...
BUT WE REALLY SHOULD TREASURE PEOPLE'S FEELINGS FOR US.
I STILL THINK THE YAMABU-KI'S MORE ELE-GANT.
I GUESS YOU CAN CONVEY FEELINGS THROUGH MANGA.
SO HE COMPARED HER TO A MANGA HE WANTS TO KEEP READ-ING...
Good for Tomo-san.

THEN YOU SHOULD BE NICER TO SHIBA-SAN... SUDO-KUN...
HEY, AYU-SAN!
NAT-SUKI-SAN!
HA HA
...
BEST. OF. LUCK.
Kingyo Diary
... KINGYO USED BOOKS
JUST ANOTHER PEACEFUL DAY AT...

Chapter 19: The Joy of Living



★YONG-SAMA: NICKNAME FOR KOREAN ACTOR BAE YONG JOON, STAR OF THE ENORMOUSLY POPULAR 2003 TV DRAMA *WINTER SONATA*.

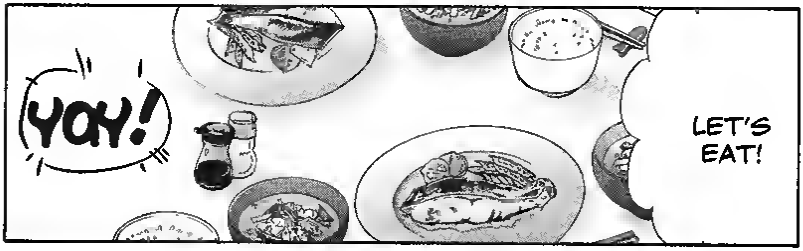
I'VE GOT IT!
...IS THAT SHE'S STARTED TAKING COOKING CLASSES.
THE ONLY THING THAT'S CHANGED LATELY...
BUT I HAVEN'T REALLY SEEN HER GLUED TO THE TV SET.
HMM.
I WONDER.
WELL...
MAYBE THERE'S A SUPER-HOT GUY...
IN HER CLASS!
SORRY
...
A HOT GUY?

AHH...
AHA HA HA HA HA HA!
I'M HUNGRY...
GRRWL
TODAY WE'LL BE MAKING VEGETABLE SOUP AND PAN-FRIED SALMON.
CLASS 2 AND CLASS 3, PLEASE BREAK INTO GROUPS.

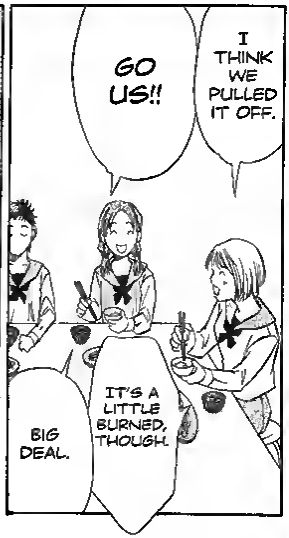
WAH WAH
BLAH BLAH
HOME EC'S SO BORING.
KARIN!
Sigh
WANNA JOIN OUR GROUP?
OH YEAH, THANKS!
HOW SHOULD WE CUT THE RADISH?
MAYBE JUST QUARTER AND SLICE IT.
NOW FOR THE FLOUR
OOPS.
BMP!
SORRY
...NANA-CHAN.
IT'S OKAY.

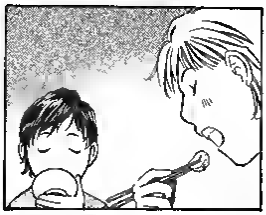
YEAH! ♡
AT LEAST IT SMELLS REALLY GOOD.

FLIP IT OVER SO YOU CAN'T TELL.
DARN, I BURNED THE SALMON.


YAY!
LET'S EAT!

KLIK
ARE YOU DONE ALREADY, NANA-CHAN?


GO US!!
I THINK WE PULLED IT OFF.
IT'S A LITTLE BURNED, THOUGH.
BIG DEAL.



IT'S PRETTY GOOD.
MM... NOT BAD.

...YOU SURE ARE HAPPY-GO-LUCKY.
YOU KNOW, KARIN...
HUH?
ER...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
...
DO I LOOK
. HAPPY-GO-LUCKY?

CH'NG
LET'S HAVE A LOOK.
WELL ...
.. YOU CERTAINLY DON'T LOOK BURDENED BY DEEP THOUGHTS.
SIGH
SO IT'S TRUE ...
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
WHAT?
C'MON, JUST TELL US.
WHAT IS IT?
SHE'S BEEN THROUGH SOME TOUGH TIMES.
OH.
NANA-CHAN.
BUT WHY?
WHY WOULD SHE HURT HER-SELF LIKE THAT?
ONCE I SAW HER...

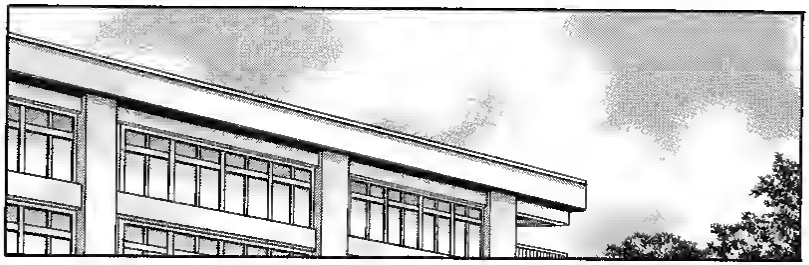
...
I'VE HEARD SOME PEOPLE CAN'T HELP THEM-SELVES.
IT JUST HAP-PENS.
I'M OFF TO MY COOKING CLASS! ♡
BE CARE-FUL COMING HOME AFTER DARK.
HAVE A GOOD TIME.
HUH?
YOU THINK SO?
MMM
YOU'RE SO SWEET, DAD.
HAPPINESS IS CONTA-GIOUS.
WHEN YOUR MOTHER'S HAPPY, I'M HAPPY TOO.

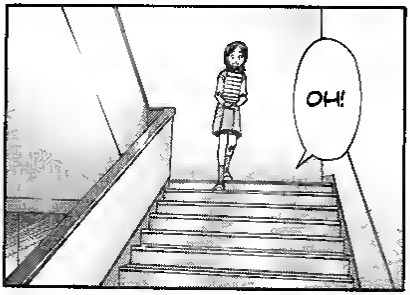
★ KAKIPEE: A COMBO SNACK OF PEANUTS AND SPICY RICE CRACKERS

I WISH KINDNESS AND SMILES...

...REALLY WERE CONTAGIOUS ...

...AND YOU COULD PASS THEM ON.





KARIN ...
HUH?
CAN YOU CUT IT OUT?
...I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE GIVING ME STUPID FAKE SMILES.
I'LL HELP YOU CARRY THEM.
REALLY ?
GREAT! THANKS!
THAT'S WHY SMILING PEOPLE MAKE ME UNEASY.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN THEY'LL DISAP-PEAR.
SMILES ARE LIES.
...BUT NEVER TO PUT ON AN ANGRY FACE.
THEY TELL YOU TO "PUT ON A HAPPY FACE"...
I CAN'T TRUST A SMIL-ING FACE.
MY MOM WAS SMILING RIGHT UP TO THE DAY SHE WALKED OUT ON US.

AT LEAST IT'S NOT A LIE
IT'S REAL.
WHEN I SEE AN UNHAPPY FACE, I DON'T HAVE TO FEAR..
...THAT I'LL LOSE IT.
THAT'S WHY I LIKE A FROWN BETTER.
YOU PROBABLY DON'T UNDER-STAND THIS..
...BUT THE WORLD IS FULL OF MISERY AND PAIN.
HOW CAN YOU BE SO EASY-GOING?
ARE...
NANA-CHAN.. UM..
HEY.
I CAN'T HELP THE WAY I AM!
MAN, SHE'S BLUNT.

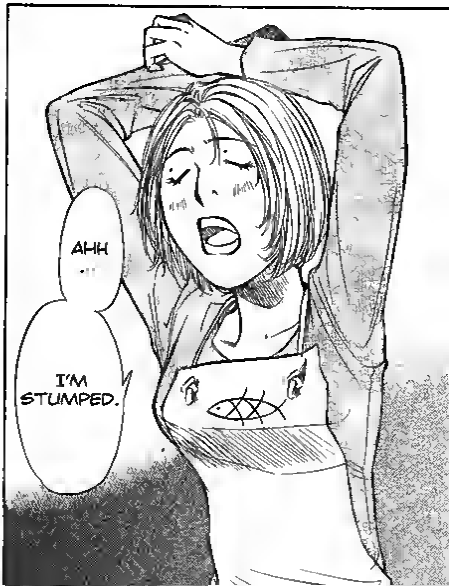
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME?
WHAT?
WELL...
...ANY-WAY...
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.
DO YOU THINK I MIGHT GET HURT ONE DAY?
...THANKS!!
heh
OOPS!

★SIGN: UOMASA, A COMMON NAME FOR A FISH MARKET. NOTE THAT THE CUSTOMERS CALL THE OWNER "UOMASA-SAN", IT'S COMMON TO ADDRESS STORE EMPLOYEES BY THE NAME OF THE STORE

I UNDERSTAND SOME OTHER STORES STOCK IT.
YOU'RE PATHETIC, YOU KNOW THAT?
UH-OH.
A FISH MARKET OUGHTA ...
HUH?
YOU MUSTN'T OBSTRUCT BUSINESS.
GOOD AFTERNOON, UOMASA-SAN.
IS ANYTHING THE MATTER?
AFTERNOON, MA'AM.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
TUP
JUST ..
...AN ORDINARY HOUSEWIFE

GRH!
STAY OUT OF THIS, OLD LA-
IF YOU WANT DRIED SQUID ...
...GO TO A GROCERY STORE!!
BWAAAH

SHP
PAF
PAF
SL
AM!!
SO
...
WRRR
Gee, sorry about that.
We'll start stocking dried squid.
...
COOL
...



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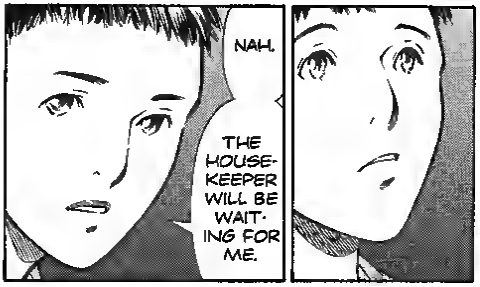
AHA!
OH, I KNOW!
STOP QUOTING DORAEMON.
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU, NOBITA-KUN?
WHAT SHOULD I DO, SHIBA-SAN?
COOKING PAPA HAS THE ANSWERS.
TAKE YOUR PICK.
WHICH VOLUME WOULD YOU LIKE?
PRETTY OBVIOUS, HUH?
I'LL COOK SOME-THING MYSELF!
HELLO.
HELLO. ARE YOU ONE OF KARIN'S FRIENDS?
HI, MOM.
OH, KARIN.

LATELY I'M INTO COOKING.
SAY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME OVER FOR DINNER?

OH, THAT'S COOKING PAPA!
WE'RE USING IT AS A TEXTBOOK IN MY COOKING CLASS.
YOU'RE LEARNING FROM A MANGA?


NAH.
THE HOUSE-KEEPER WILL BE WAIT-ING FOR ME.

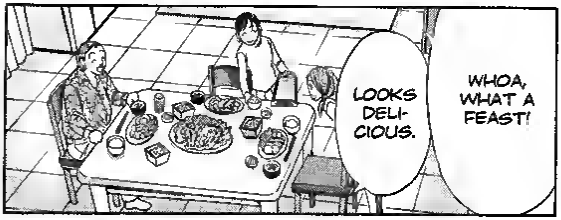
HUH?
KARIN.

HUH?
ER, YEAH.

THAT WEIRD LADY FROM EARLIER...
. . .WAS PRETTY COOL, HUH?

SUCH A CUTE SMILE
I LOVE GIRLS LIKE THAT
I BET SHE DOESN'T EVEN REALIZE IT.
IT ISN'T A FAKE SMILE, EITHER.
SO SHE CAN SMILE.
Looks tasty!
...IT'S RARE TO FIND A LONG-RUNNING MANGA THAT FOCUSES ON HOME COOKING.
. . IS THAT WHILE THERE ARE A LOT OF MANGA ABOUT PROFESSIONAL CHEFS . .
PART OF COOKING PAPA'S CHARM...
...THIS!
AND ABOVE ALL, THERE'S...

THE SMILES ON THE CHARACTERS' FACES WHEN THEY'RE EATING ARE THE BEST PART OF THE MANGA.

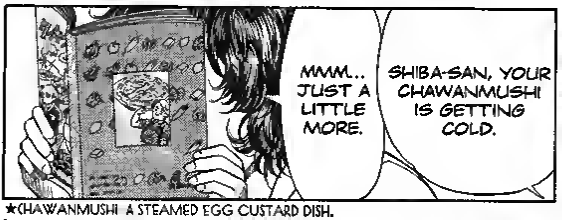


WHOA, WHAT A FEAST!

LOOKS DELI-CIOUS.

DINNER!

COMING!



SHIBA-SAN, YOUR CHAWANMUSHI IS GETTING COLD.

MMM... JUST A LITTLE MORE.

★CHAWANMUSHI A STEAMED EGG CUSTARD DISH.

DON'T YOU EVER GET TIRED OF READING MANGA EVERY DAY?

NEVER!

YOU SURE ENJOY COOKING EVERY DAY.

OF COURSE!

AFTER ALL...

...EATING IS...
...READING MANGA IS...
...THE JOY OF LIVING!!

KARIN? WHAT'S WRONG?
GYAAH! NO!
DON'T LOOK!
STOP!
...
GROW-ING PAINS.
BOOK CENTER
本

MAYBE I'LL TRY COOKING SOME-THING.
HM?
How are you?
Good evening.
SONY
...Honami Kaburagi's Happy Cooking.
Time to get started on.

OH, SHE'S SOOO COOL! ♡
HMM ?
THAT'S MY INSTRUCTOR!!
LOOK, HONEY, LOOK!
I HAVE TO RECORD THIS!
HONAMI-SENSE!!!
Kya~~~aa!
I have to return that manga...
.. SHE'S ALL GIDDY ABOUT.
Whew
SO THAT'S WHO..
WHERE'S A BLANK TAPE, SHIBA-SAN?
I DIDN'T SET MOM'S SHOW TO TAPE!
NOOO! I FORGOT!
HUH?
WE HAVE A VCR?
BAM WHAM TMP
Used Books

Chapter 20: Nekotama-do (Part 1)

NO CLOUDS

BIRDSONG MINGLES WITH THE SOUND OF THE DISTANT WIND

THE SKY...

...IS DEEP BLUE.

IT'S FREEZING.
NO, THAT'S PUTTING IT MILDLY.
IT'S COLD.
BUT IT FEELS GOOD!
MY TONGUE TINGLES A BIT FROM THE BITTER-NESS.
FROM MY BACK-PACK, I TAKE OUT THE SEASONAL FRUIT I BOUGHT AT THE MARKET YESTERDAY.
NO ...
IT CAN'T BE...
BUT ...
HEY!
I'LL HAVE TO GO BACK TO THAT WELL FOR SOME WATER

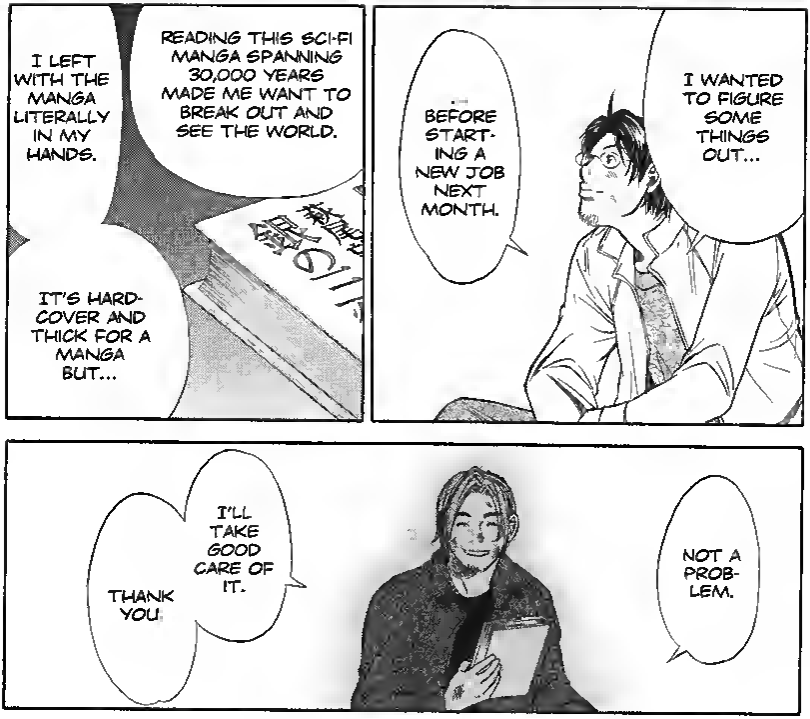
HELLO.
UH..
OH!
...HELLO!
SO.
YOU ARE JAPANESE?
Y-YES.
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M OKADOME.
HELLO. I'M NOMOTO.
MIND IF I REST HERE AWHILE?
BE MY GUEST.
COLD OUT, ISN'T IT?
YES, BUT I'M THANKFUL FOR THE CLEAR SKIES.

AS SHY AS I AM, I FOUND MYSELF UNUSUALLY EAGER TO TALK.
...ABOUT THE COUNTRY, ABOUT OUR TRAVELS.
WE SHARED A LIVELY CONVERSATION...
NOMO-TO-SAN?
YES?
SORRY. THAT CAME OUT OF THE BLUE.
NO, IT'S FINE.
ACTUAL-LY, I'VE ALWAYS LOVED MANGA.
WHAT?
DO YOU EVER READ MANGA?
I READ ALL DIFFER-ENT KINDS.
WHY DO YOU ASK?

I GUESS WE ALL MISS READING JAPANESE.
..WE ALWAYS END UP TRADING WHATEVER MANGA WE HAPPEN TO HAVE ON US.
ON THE RARE OCCASIONS WHEN I BUMP INTO OTHER JAPANESE TRAVELERS OUT HERE..
HERE.
WHAT IS IT?
IN FACT, THE ONLY BOOK I'M CARRYING RIGHT NOW IS A MANGA.
IT'S A SIMPLE STORY ABOUT AN IMPORTER WHOSE BUSINESS TAKES HIM TO RESTAURANTS ALL OVER JAPAN.
THE LONELY GOURMET.
.. BUT IT'S FANTASTIC.
孤独のグルメ
久住昌之
谷口ジロー

THE PAGES ARE DOGEARED FROM THE COUNTLESS TRAVELERS WHO HAVE READ THIS BOOK.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN TO THE FARTHEST CORNERS OF THE EARTH.

STORY! THE LONELY GOURMET (KODOKU NO GURUMEI) STORY BY MASAYUKI KUSUMI. ART BY JIRO TANIGUCHI. SERIALIZED IN ZERKAIN HAKU BY KUSOSHA. FROM 1994. IUNKO EDITION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FROM FUSOSHA.


I WANTED TO FIGURE SOME THINGS OUT...
BEFORE STARTING A NEW JOB NEXT MONTH.
READING THIS SCI-FI MANGA SPANNING 30,000 YEARS MADE ME WANT TO BREAK OUT AND SEE THE WORLD.
I LEFT WITH THE MANGA LITERALLY IN MY HANDS.
IT'S HARDCOVER AND THICK FOR A MANGA BUT...

STUFF: *THE SILVER TRIANGLE* (GIN NO SANKAKU) BY MOTO HAGIO. SERIALIZED IN *IKKI* MAGAZINE FROM 1980 BY SHOGAKUKAN. WINNER OF THE 14TH SEIUN AWARD FOR BEST COMIC. RIGHT NOW THE BUNKO EDITION FROM HAKUSENSHA IS FAIRLY EASY TO OBTAIN

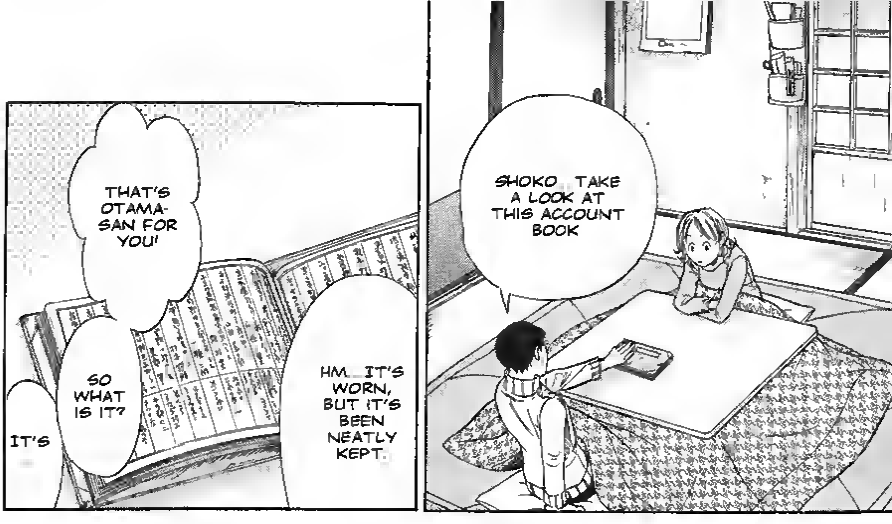
CAN'T YOU STICK IT OUT A WHILE LONGER?
CAN YOU GET UNEMPLOYMENT?
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO? TEMP?
Japan. several years later...
YOU'RE QUITTING THE COMPANY, NOMOTO-SAN?
YEAH.
WHAT?
THEY STILL EXIST?
ACTUALLY, I'M TAKING OVER A MANGA LENDING LIBRARY.
I WANT TO TRY SOMETHING THAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME.
YOU ONLY GET ONE CHANCE AT LIFE.
WOW...
THEY HAD TROUBLE FINDING A SUCCESSOR, SO I VOLUNTEERED.
IT'S A STORE CALLED NEKO-TAMA-DO.

NOMO-TO-SAN.
I WANTED TO RETURN THIS.
OKADOME-SAN! IT'S YOU!
YES
I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED YOU WHEN I SAW YOU WITH KOSHINO-SAN.
BUT I COULDN'T TELL RIGHT AWAY. GUESS WE WERE BOTH A LITTLE GRUNGY BACK THEN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU BROUGHT IT ALL THE WAY BACK IN SUCH GOOD SHAPE!
IT WEIGHS A TON!

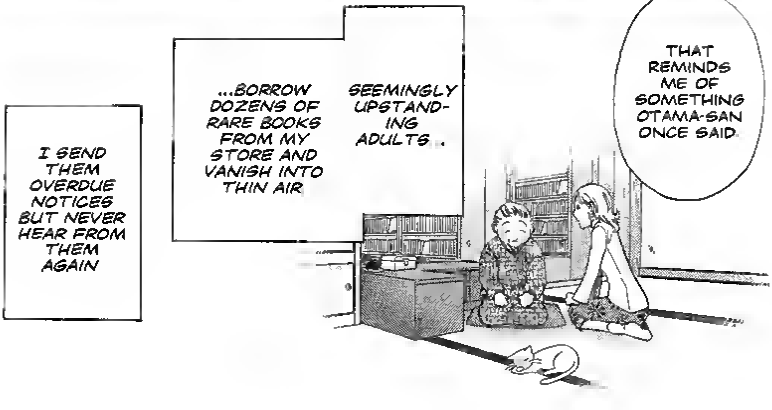
WELCOME BACK, ALREADY!
AND SO WE MEET AGAIN.
IT SEEMED PRECIOUS TO YOU, SO I WANTED TO RETURN IT IF I EVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY.
I HOPE IT'S STILL ABROAD, GETTING PASSED FROM HAND TO HAND.
I GAVE IT TO A JAPANESE TRAVELER JUST BEFORE COMING HOME.
WHAT BECAME OF THE LONELY GOURMET?
REKOTAMA-DO
SPLASH

WEL-COME!
HI THERE
I'M STILL INEXPERIENCED, BUT I WORK HARD EVERY DAY
IT'S BEEN A FEW MONTHS SINCE I TOOK OVER THE STORE.
NEKOTAMA-DO
COM-ING!
HELLO?
OF COURSE
LEND US SOME BOOKS!
NEKO-TAMA-SAN!
...BREATH-LESSLY CLUTCH-ING ¥100 COINS.
IN THE EVENING, KIDS COME TO THE STORE...
THIS ONE?
I WANT THAT MANGA UP THERE!
YAAY

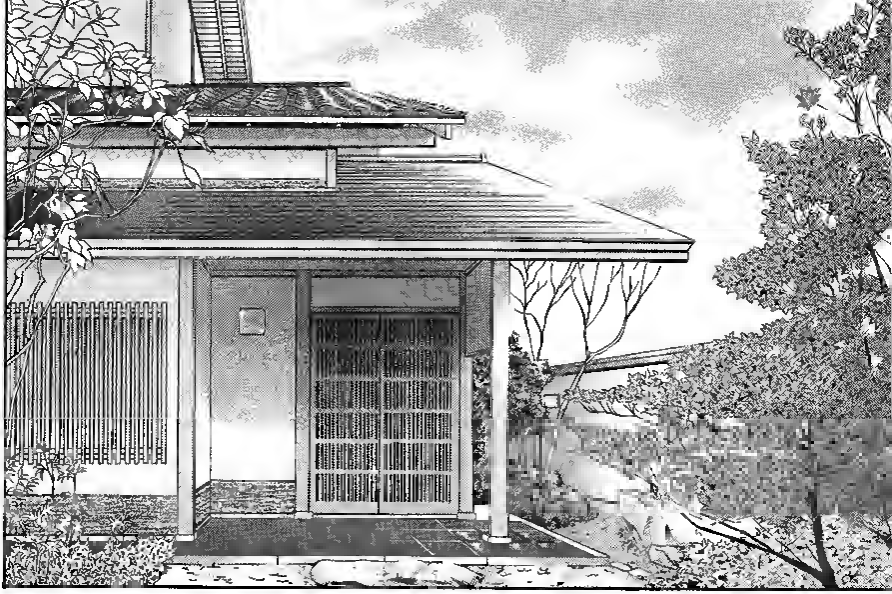
OWW..
HM?
TH
UD
YIKES!
TRP
WHAT'S THIS?
HMM
WHAT'S WRONG, KOHEI?
NEKOTAMA-DO

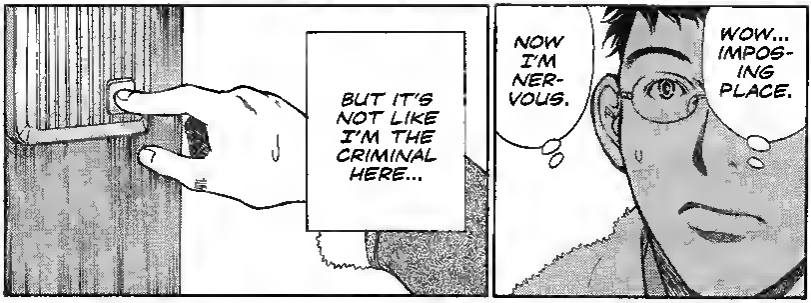

SHOKO... TAKE A LOOK AT THIS ACCOUNT BOOK
HM... IT'S WORN, BUT IT'S BEEN NEATLY KEPT.
SO WHAT IS IT?
IT'S
THAT'S OTAMA-SAN FOR YOU!

A LIST OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO NEVER RETURNED BOOKS TO NEKOTAMA
OH DEAR.


THAT REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING OTAMA-SAN ONCE SAID.
SEEMINGLY UPSTAND-ING ADULTS...
...BORROW DOZENS OF RARE BOOKS FROM MY STORE AND VANISH INTO THIN AIR
I SEND THEM OVERDUE NOTICES BUT NEVER HEAR FROM THEM AGAIN

I WISH EVERYBODY COULD BE AS CONSCI-ENTIOUS AS THIS GUY ABOUT RETURNING BOOKS.
THAT'S BECAUSE HE LOVES MANGA.
I KNOW.
THAT'S AWFUL.
..SO IT'S DIFFICULT TO COL-LECT THE BOOKS MYSELF..
I CAN'T GET AROUND SO WELL ANYMORE..
HMM.
LEAVE THINGS BE?
SO WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?
NOPE.
MAYBE PEOPLE HANG ON TO BOOKS OUT OF LOVE FOR MANGA TOO.
THAT'S JUST EGO.
THAT'S NOT LOVE.



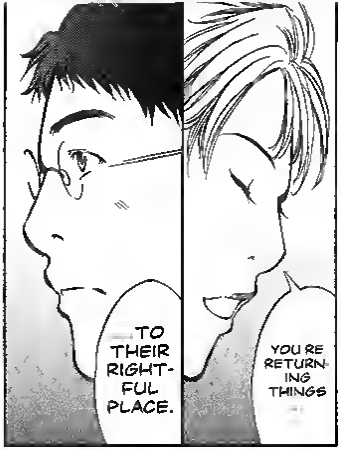

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M THE CRIMINAL HERE...
NOW I'M NER-VOUS.
WOW... IMPOS-ING PLACE.

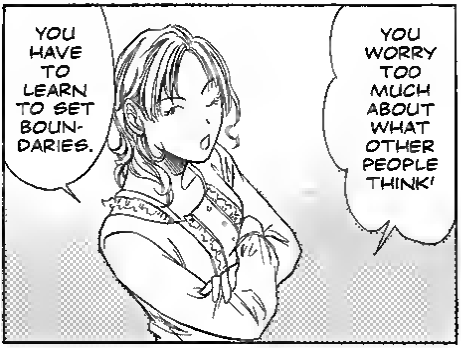
BE CALM... BE POLITE ...
WHAT ?
I'VE COME TO COLLECT SOME MANGA YOU'VE BORROWED!
MY NAME IS NOMOTO. I'M FROM THE LEND-ING LIBRARY NEKOTAMA-DO.
YES?

SORRY TO BUG YOU ON YOUR DAY OFF.
NEKO-TAMA-DO?
CHAK
W-WAIT A SEC
IT'S ABOUT THE FIVE BOOKS THAT YOU BORROWED!
CAN YOU WAIT HERE WHILE I CHECK THE SHELVES?
I SEE.
I'VE BEEN SO BUSY IT MUST'VE SLIPPED MY MIND.
HEY, MAYBE I DID BORROW SOME-THING.
I GUESS THIS GUY IS ONE OF LIFE'S WINNERS.
WHAT AN IMPRES-SIVE RECEP-TION ROOM

UM...
GREAT!
THANK YOU FOR RETURNING THEM.
YES?
HERE YOU GO.
HUH?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO REPORT ME TO THE POLICE OVER THIS, ARE YOU?
ISN'T THERE A LATE FEE AND STUFF?
SURELY IT'S HAPPENED TO YOU.
POK
AN INNOCENT MISTAKE
IT SLIPPED MY MIND, THAT'S ALL.

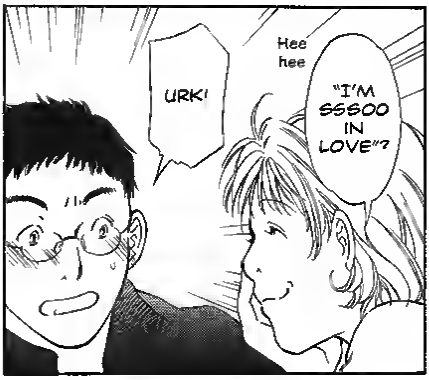
ER, NO.
AS LONG AS WE GET THE BOOKS BACK...
...IT'S ALL GOOD.
I SHOULD BE GOING.
RIGHT.
JEEZ, THAT WAS AWK-WARD.
WELL, SURE.
EVERY JOB HAS ITS DOWNSIDE.
TRUCK DRIVERS, COPS, FLORISTS THEY'VE EACH GOT THEIR OWN TROUBLES.
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG, BUT I'M THE ONE WHO FEELS GUILTY. WHAT A DOWNER


YOU'RE RETURNING THINGS...
...TO THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE.


YOU WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK!
YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO SET BOUNDARIES.

C'MON, KOHEI, BUCK UP!
HAVE AN ORANGE. THEY'RE NICE AND SWEET.
SHOKO, I'M S...S...

HAVING THE POSITIVE ENERGY TO DO THAT..
...IS PART OF THE JOB.


URK!
Hee hee
"I'M SSSOO IN LOVE"?

I ALMOST SAID "SORRY" AGAIN
UM, ER... NOTHING
WHAT'RE YOU HISSING AT ME?

A MANGA? REALLY?
I HAVE A RECORD OF IT RIGHT HERE.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!
ALL THIS FUSS OVER A DUMB BOOK.
SHEESH, TAKE IT!
WHAP
OH, I GUESS I FORGOT.
HEH HEH HEH...
THANK YOU.
HAZARDS OF THE JOB.
HELLO?

HELLO!
NEXT IS...
...NAKA-TA-SAN...
I'M RETURNING AN OVER-DUE BOOK. MY NAME'S NAKATA.
I'M SORRY THIS IS LATE!
I GOT SENT ON A SUDDEN BUSINESS TRIP AND THEN GOT APPENDICITIS WHILE I WAS OVERSEAS.
IT'S ALL RIGHT! AS LONG AS YOU BRING IT BACK!
YOU'VE HAD A TOUGH WEEK, HUH?
I CAME AS SOON AS THE HOSPITAL DISCHARGED ME!
I'M REALLY SORRY!

I WANNA BORROW KARITOBI KARUSUKE.
HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GONNA READ IT?
NOT AGAIN, YOSHIZUMI-SAN.
HE LOVES THAT BOOK.
HI.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
SAY, NEKO-TAMA-SAN...
YES?
DO YOU HAVE A BOOK BY OSAMU TEZUKA CALLED GEGGAKAI NO NAZO?
HEY, NEKO-TAMA-SAN!
DID YOU ENJOY THE BOOK YOU BORROWED?
VERY MUCH!

ITUMI

KARUTOBI KARUSUKE BY YHIGEO MIYAO AN EARLY CLASSIC PUBLISHED IN 1927 BY DAI NIPPON YUBENKAI KODANSHA. MIYAO SPECIALIZED IN NINJA MANGA.

THE TITLE DOESN'T RING A BELL, BUT SOMEBODY SAID THEY'D SEEN IT.
I COULDN'T TELL YOU..
THAT'S A ZOKKIBON OF GESSAKAI SHINSHI.
IT'S A COMPILATION WITH SOME OTHER STORIES...
...BY FUJIMI...
THE REGULARS HERE ARE REALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT MANGA.
THE WORDS FLY BACK AND FORTH OVER MY HEAD...
Katsushi Katsukawa's mini books are cute!
...LIKE THEY'RE ON ROCKETS.
THE WORLD HAS SO MANY INTERESTING MANGA...
...SO MANY BOOKS I'VE YET TO READ.
I'LL BE READING A LOT MORE OF THEM FROM NOW ON.

STUDY1

GESSEKAI SHINSHI (MOONY MAN), BY OSAMU TEZUKA, PUBLISHED IN 1948 BY FUJI SHOBO, A SCIENCE FICTION STORY BASED ON THE FOLKTALE TAKETORI MONOGATARI (THE TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER). ZOKKIBON ARE BARGAIN BOOKS SOLD THROUGH ALTERNATIVE DISTRIBUTION METHODS. GESSEKAI NO BAZO (MOON SECRET) IS A ZOKKIBON COLLECTING GESSEKAI SHINSHI AND TWO OTHER STORIES, PUBLISHED IN 1956 BY FUJIMI SHUPPAN

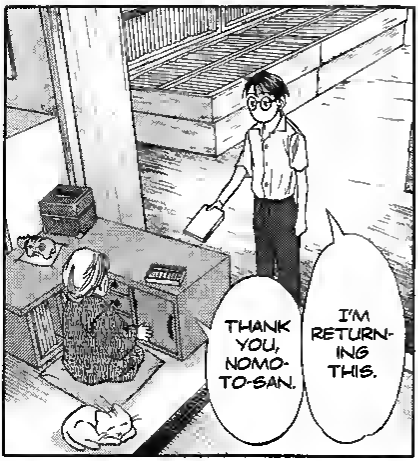
BOOKS? I DON'T THINK SO.
ARE YOU SURE?
I'D REALLY LIKE THEM BACK.
IT'S STRANGE
AS MORE BOOKS MAKE THEIR WAY BACK TO THE STORE..
...IT FEELS LIKE, SLOWLY BUT SURELY, I'M REGAINING SOMETHING ELSE ALONG WITH THEM.
HUH?
THIS IS ALL JUST THE BEGINNING.
NEKOTAMA-DO
I DIDN'T SEE THIS.
CHECKED OUT ALL THIS TIME...
THIS IS ONE I'VE GOT TO GET BACK.

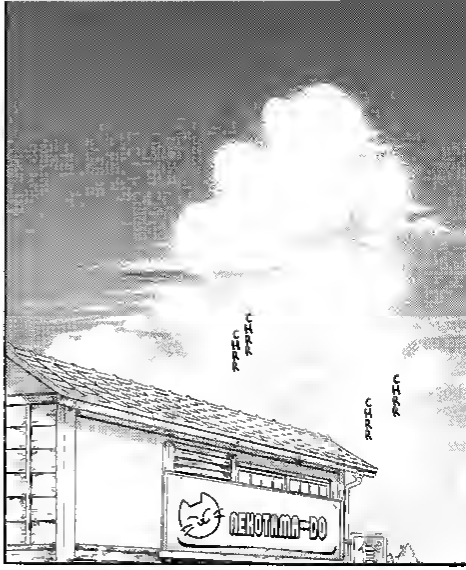
Pi
THIS IS THE MANGA LENDING LIBRARY NEKOTAMA-DO.
I'M CALLING ABOUT A BOOK YOU BORROWED SOME TIME BACK ..
YES.
DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW ...
WHAT?
OUT OF THE COUNTRY?

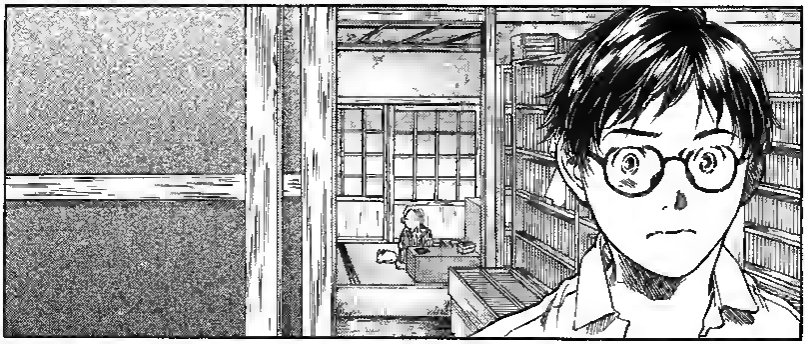
Chapter 21: Nekotama-do (Part 2)

NEKOTAMA-DO
IS THIS BOOK THAT RARE AND VALUABLE?
YOU SAID IT'S A BOOK YOU HAVE TO GET BACK.
IT MUST BE WORTH A MINT.
I KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT YOU DON'T JUDGE MANGA...
..BY THOSE STANDARDS.
JUST KIDDING.
WELL...

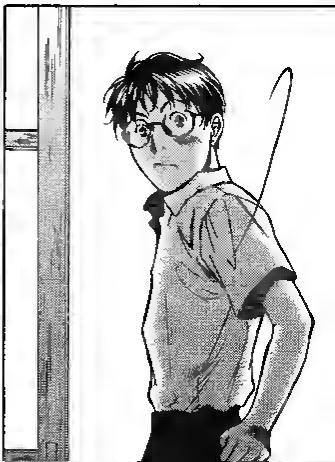
WE NEED TO PRESERVE MANGA FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS THE WAY WE DO OTHER WORKS OF ART.
IN THE FUTURE, THAT NEED WILL ONLY INCREASE.
EVEN CLASSIC UKIYO-E PRINTS, PRINTED IN MASS QUANTITIES DURING THE EDO PERIOD, ARE VANISHING NOW.
THE THING IS, UNLIKE DIGITAL DATA, PAPER MEDIA DISAPPEARS OVER TIME
THEN WHAT DRIVES YOU?
BUT... ...THIS DOESN'T REALLY HAVE TO DO WITH CULTURAL POSTERITY.
KOff
THE MEMORY OF AN EMBARRASSING BLUNDER...


I'M RETURNING THIS.
THANK YOU, NOMOTO-SAN.


CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
NEKOTAMA-DO



YES?

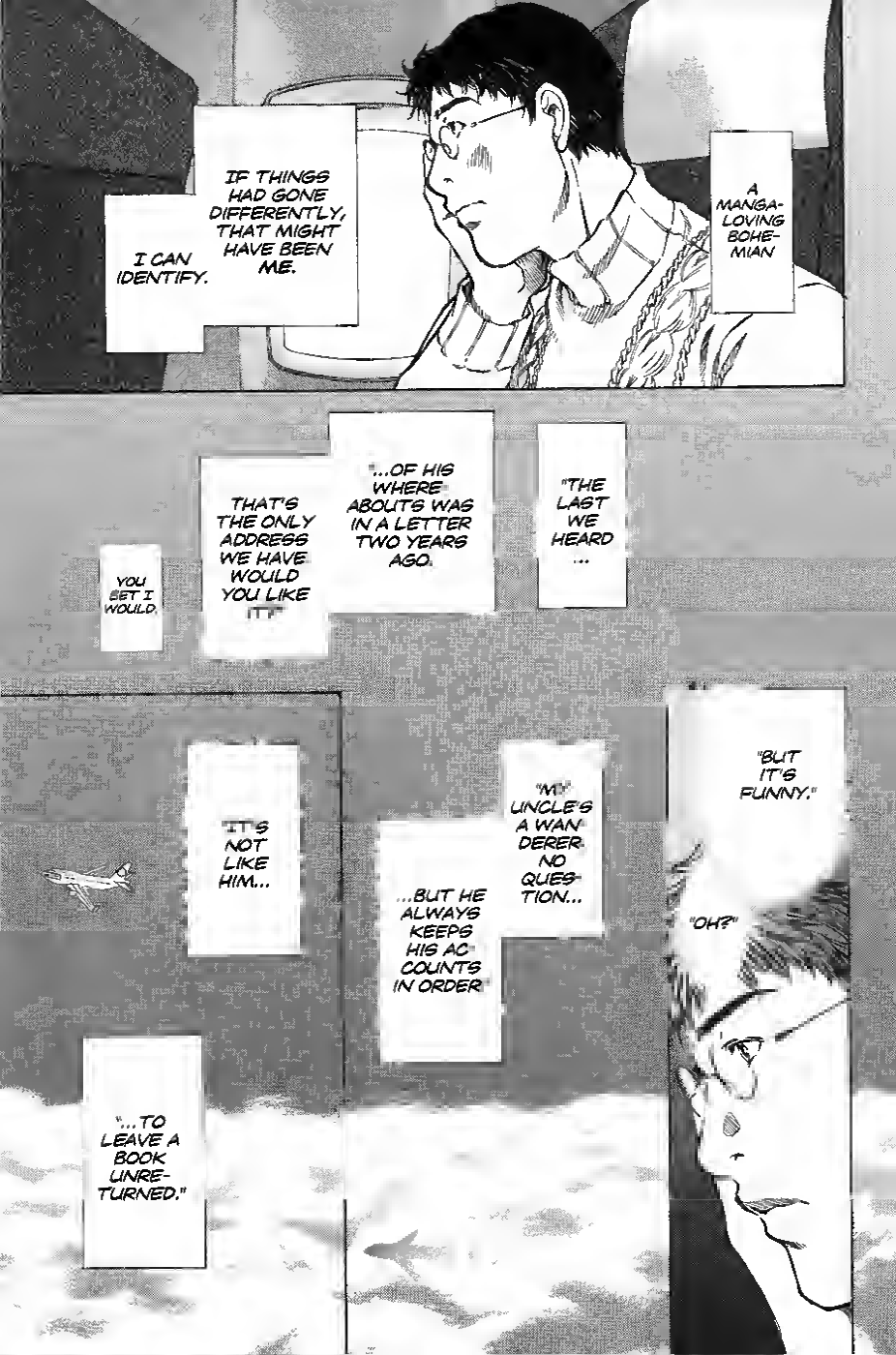


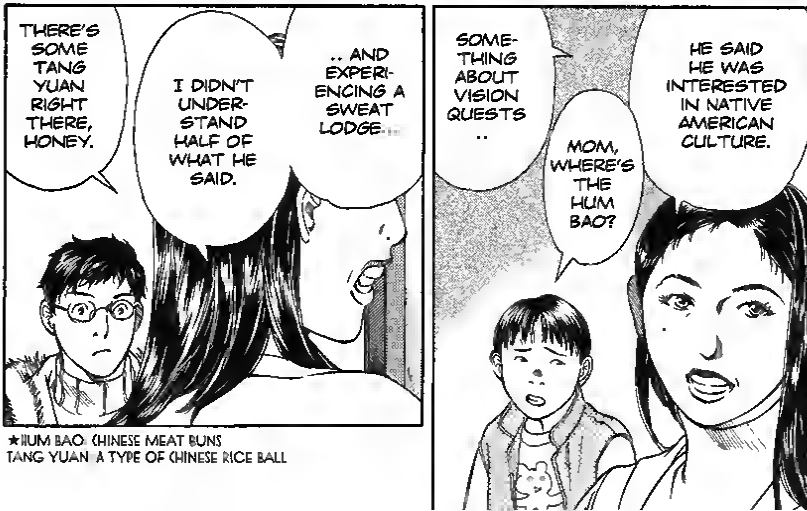
UM...
I'M SORRY! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
I RIPPED THE BLANK PAGE AT THE BEGINNING!
OH DEAR.
I DROPPED IT AND CAUGHT IT AND . AND...
I'LL PAY FOR IT"!
IS THE STORY INSIDE ALL RIGHT?
YES.
THAT'S GOOD
THEN WE'LL DO THIS.
WATCH NOW.
HUH?
CHK
SNIP SNIP
SNIP SNIP
TP

SHE PASTED PAPER CHERRY BLOS-SOMS OVER THE TEAR...
GOOD AS NEW.
THAT'S THE TRADITIONAL WAY TO REPAIR PAPER SCREENS AND DOORS
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. COME BACK ANYTIME, NOMOTO-SAN.
I'M SORRY.
I'LL BE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON.
I WAS ASHAMED THAT I'D EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT KEEPING MY MIS-TAKE A SECRET.
NEKOTAMA-DO
BE CAREFUL NOW, KOHEI.

COME TO THINK OF IT, I DIDN'T EVEN TAKE YOU OVER-SEAS ON OUR HONEYMOON ...
HEY!
MAYBE THIS IS GOING TOO FAR.
WHAT?
GOING OVER-SEAS TO JUST TO RETRIEVE A MANGA.
LISTEN TO YOU.
HOW RUDE.
I DIDN'T MARRY YOU SO YOU COULD MAKE THINGS HAPPEN FOR ME.
IF I WANNA GO ABROAD, I'LL DARN WELL FIND A WAY TO DO IT...
. AND I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT WHEN I GET BACK.
AND IF WE HAPPEN TO BE HEADED IN THE SAME DIRECTION, WE CAN HOLD HANDS AND TOUR THE CIRCLES OF HELL TOGETHER.
THAT'S WHAT MARRIED COUPLES DO. ♡
NOW GET OUT THERE AND GET TO WORK!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.. I'LL SEE YOU.
She's up for anything.

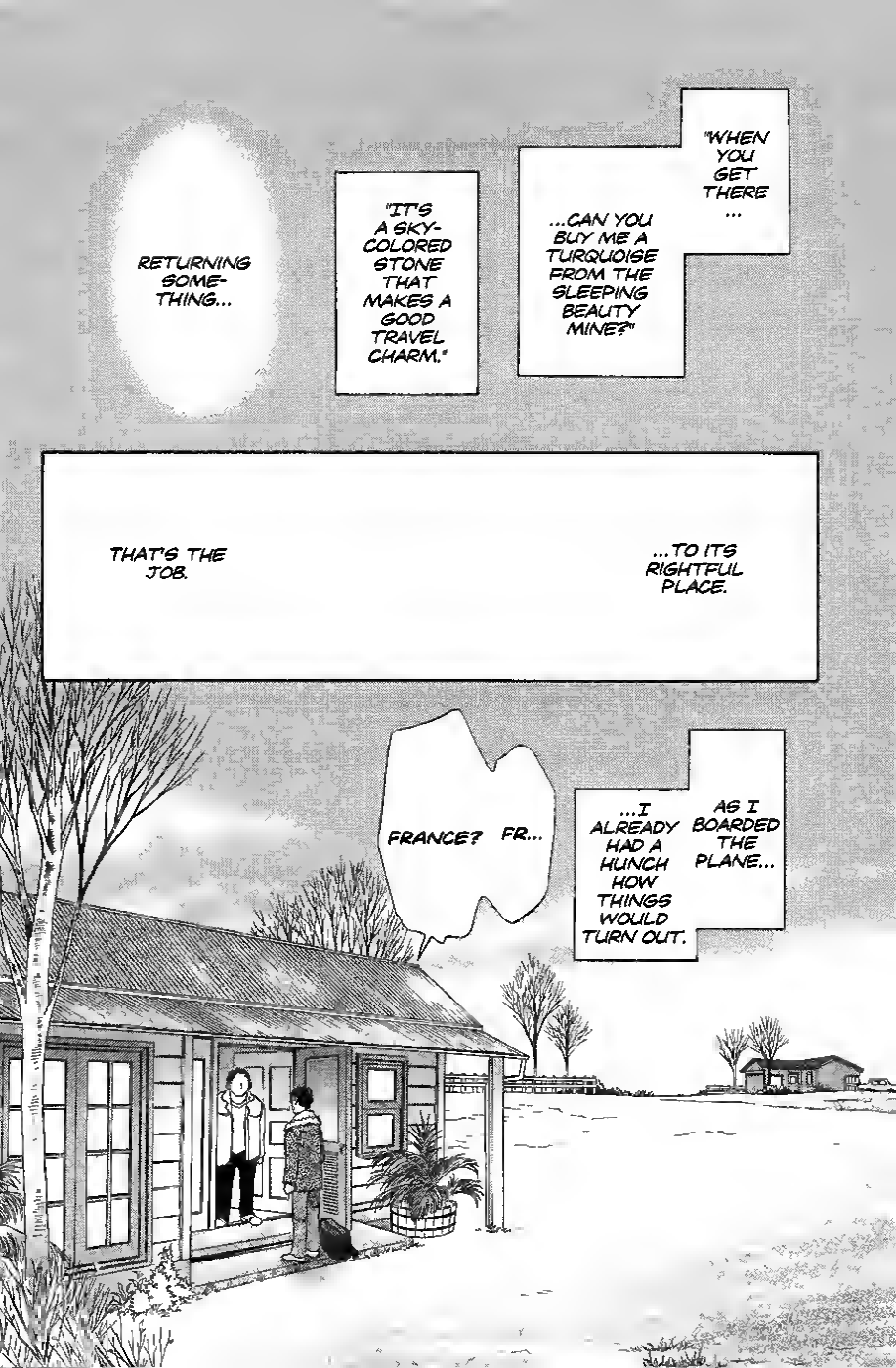
OH WELL.
Off to clean house.
I WONDER WHAT MANGA HE'S GOING AFTER.
BY THE WAY...
"HE'S SOMETHING OF A BOHEMIAN. TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
...WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE'S LIVING NOW."
"I THINK HE VISITED THAT LIBRARY SEVERAL TIMES."
"THAT'S RIGHT..MY UNCLE READ A LOT OF MANGA WHEN HE WAS LIVING HERE WITH US


A MANGA-LOVING BOHE-MIAN
IF THINGS HAD GONE DIFFERENTLY, THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ME.
I CAN IDENTIFY.
"THE LAST WE HEARD ...
"...OF HIS WHERE-ABOUTS WAS IN A LETTER TWO YEARS AGO.
THAT'S THE ONLY ADDRESS WE HAVE WOULD YOU LIKE IT?"
YOU BET I WOULD.
"BUT IT'S FUNNY."
"MY UNCLE'S A WAN-DERER NO QUES-TION...
...BUT HE ALWAYS KEEPS HIS AC-COUNTS IN ORDER.
"OH?"
"IT'S NOT LIKE HIM...
"...TO LEAVE A BOOK UNRE-TURNED."


THERE'S SOME TANG YUAN RIGHT THERE, HONEY.
I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND HALF OF WHAT HE SAID.
.. AND EXPERI-ENCING A SWEAT LODGE...
SOME-THING ABOUT VISION QUESTS ..
MOM, WHERE'S THE HUM BAO?
HE SAID HE WAS INTERESTED IN NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE.

★HUM BAO: CHINESE MEAT BUNS
TANG YUAN: A TYPE OF CHINESE RICE BALL

UM...
..WOULD YOU MIND GIVING ME THE ADDRESS?
SURE.
WAIT RIGHT HERE.
I THINK WE GOT A POSTCARD FROM HIM.
MOM, I NEED A PLATE!
FIND IT YOURSELF!
WHAT ..
SHOULD I DO?
AMERICA ..
SURE, WHY NOT GO TO AMERICA?
YOU CAN JUST HOP A PLANE.
heh
SPOKEN LIKE THE WOMAN WHO CLIMBED THE PYRAMIDS IN AN ISAO KANEKO SKIRT WHEN SHE WAS SINGLE.
That was some nimble footwork.


RETURNING SOME-THING...
"IT'S A SKY-COLORED STONE THAT MAKES A GOOD TRAVEL CHARM."
"WHEN YOU GET THERE ...
...CAN YOU BUY ME A TURQUOISE FROM THE SLEEPING BEAUTY MINE?"
THAT'S THE JOB.
...TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE.
AS I BOARDED THE PLANE...
...I ALREADY HAD A HUNCH HOW THINGS WOULD TURN OUT.
FRANCE? FR...

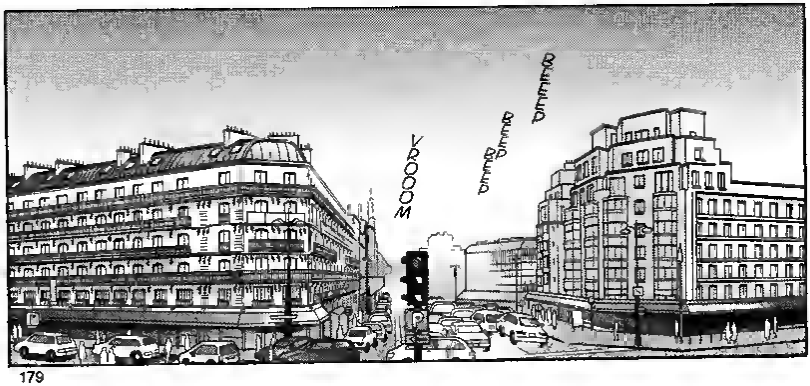
WE TOLD HIM NEXT TIME HE GOT IN A SCRAPE, WE'D PUT SOME WAR PAINT ON HIM.
EVERYBODY 'ROUND HERE LOVED IT. THAT MANAGER WAS BAD NEWS FROM THE START.
Ha Ha Ha
LAST MONTH, AFTER HE PUNCHED OUT HIS BOSS AT THE DRUGSTORE WHERE HE WAS WORKING
HE'S GONE TO FRANCE?
IS THIS REALLY MY JOB?
WHAT AM I DOING?
RUNNING AROUND LIKE AN IDIOT...
...AFTER A SINGLE SCRAP OF NOSTALGIA.
AM I JUST INDULGING IN A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD?
A TRIP...

A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD ...
YES
A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD.
THAT'S ALMOST FITTING FOR THE MANGA I'M TRYING TO GET BACK
FOR THAT MANGA.
DO YOU KNOW HIS ADDRESS IN FRANCE?
SURE.
WHERE TO NEXT?
WHERE IS THAT MANGA?
THE NORTH POLE? THE SOUTH POLE?
I'LL GO ANY-WHERE.
WHAT-EVER IT TAKES.
ZHAA

A TURQUOISE FROM THE SLEEPING BEAUTY MINE.
AS BLUE AS THE SKY.
THE SKY IS ALSO BLUE IN THE SILVER TRIANGLE.
IT'S ALWAYS BLUE OVER THE ROOF OF NEKO-TAMA-DO.
EVERYONE I'VE MET UNDER THAT SKY HAS BEEN KIND.
NICE DAY TO BE OUT WORKING.
WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?
EVERY DAY'S A STRUGGLE.
IT'S WHAT YOU DO TO SURVIVE.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES LIFE A GIFT.

I...
...GIVE PEOPLE BOOKS.
THAT'S MY JOB.

BOOKS ARE GOOD.
BOOKS ..
...EH?
SOUNDS LIKE A REWARDING JOB.


VROOOM
BRRRD
BRRRD
BRRRD
BRRRD

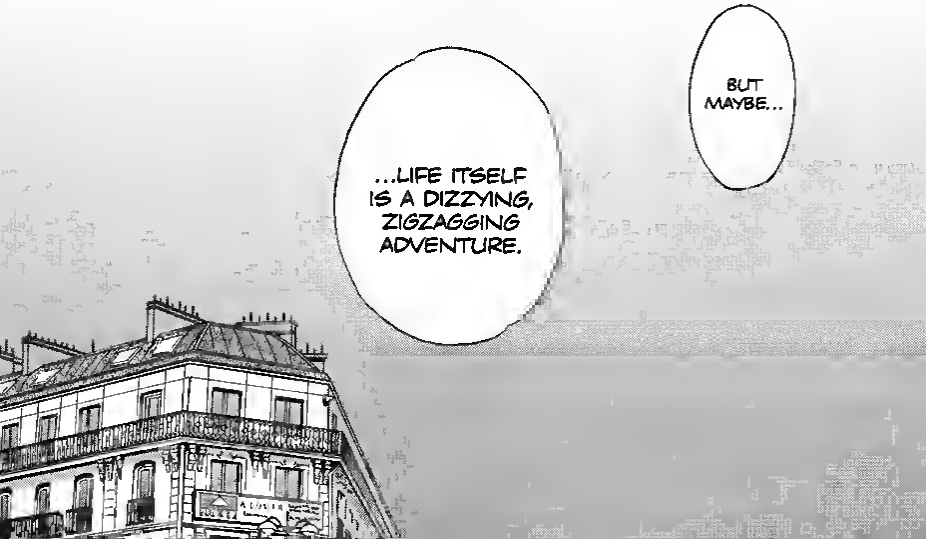
EVEN IF I FIND THIS GUY, CHANCES ARE..
...THAT AT SOME POINT HE LOST THE BOOK OR THREW IT AWAY.
YES? Quoi?
IS TAKANO-SAN HERE? Est-ce que M. Takao est la?
IT'S HIM!
THAT'S ME. C'est moi.
MY NAME IS NOMOTO. I'VE COME FROM JAPAN.
NOMOTO? DOESN'T RING A BELL.
I TOOK OVER THE LENDING LIBRARY NEKO-TAMA-DO.
I'VE COME TO COLLECT A MANGA...
WHOA!
SLAM
NEKO-TAMA-DO?
WEL-COME!
I'M GLAD YOU CAME!!
HUH?

THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY.
I STARTED CHASING AFTER THE BOOK AND I JUST COULDN'T STOP...
I'M SORRY TO HAVE LEFT WITH IT
OF COURSE I'LL RETURN IT.
I DIDN'T COME TO ACCUSE YOU.
SOMETIMES I FORGET ... TO RETURN ...
NO.
OH?
I DIDN'T FORGET TO RETURN IT.
I LEFT JAPAN WITH IT ON PURPOSE.
WHAT? WHY?

BLUUUSH
SHE WAS LIKE A MOTHER OR A BIG SISTER TO ME. .
SORRY . . ER. .
WHAT?
I WAS IN LOVE WITH OTAMA-SAN.
THEN . . .
. . JUST BEFORE LEAVING THE COUNTRY, I OPENED THE BOOK. . .
I HAD NO INTEN-TION OF EVER TELLING HER HOW I FELT.
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M A BORN VAGABOND.
. . AND SHE WAS SO DEVOTED TO HER LATE HUSBAND AND NEKO-TAMA-DO. I ADMIRED THAT.
I KNEW RIGHT AWAY THAT OTAMA-SAN HAD REPAIRED THE PAGE HER-SELF.
AH. . .
. . . AND FOUND THESE PAPER CHERRY BLOSSOMS PASTED OVER THE FIRST PAGE.
. . THAT I WANTED TO KEEP THE BOOK BY MY SIDE.
I WAS SO MOVED BY THE GESTURE . . .

I WAS JUST BEING SELFISH.
IT WAS DISRESPECTFUL OF ME. I *STOLE* FROM THE WOMAN I CARED FOR.
JUST BECAUSE I LOVED HER
NOMOTO ...ER, NEKOTAMADO-SAN
AFTER SEEING YOU COME ALL THIS WAY TO FULFILL YOUR DUTY...
..YOU'VE INSPIRED ME TO ACT WITH *HONOR* FROM NOW ON, WHEREVER I MAY BE.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

I ENDED UP ZIGZAGGING QUITE A BIT.
HONEY HONEY'S WONDERFUL ADVENTURES. CHASING THIS BOOK, I THOUGHT I'D END UP CIRCLING THE WORLD LIKE HONEY HONEY.
HONEY HONEY
SUN comics
©水野英子
©EIKO MIZUNO


BUT MAYBE...
...LIFE ITSELF IS A DIZZYING, ZIGZAGGING ADVENTURE.

VIENNA TO VENICE TO PARIS TO LONDON TO SCANDINAVIA TO RUSSIA TO THE MIDDLE EAST...
...TO JAPAN TO AMERICA TO AFRICA TO VIENNA ...
LOOK AT ALL THE PLACES HONEY HONEY TRAVELED ...
...IN JUST TWO VOLUMES.
ALWAYS A DENSE READ.
UM...
HELLO.
OH, HELLO THERE.
THOUGHT SO
YOU'RE JAPANESE, RIGHT?

IS THAT A MANGA?
YES.
DO YOU MIND IF I SIT?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SPOKE JAPANESE.
PLEASE DO.
OH, THAT'S TOO BAD.
WELL, THIS IS A LOANER BOOK FROM MY STORE
WHAT?
IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, COULD I TRADE YOU WITH THE MANGA I HAVE NOW?
REALLY?
..YOU CAN HAVE IT.
IF YOU PROMISE TO RETURN IT TO NEKOTAMA-DO WHEN YOU'RE BACK IN JAPAN..
HUH?
NEKO-TAMA-DO.
...

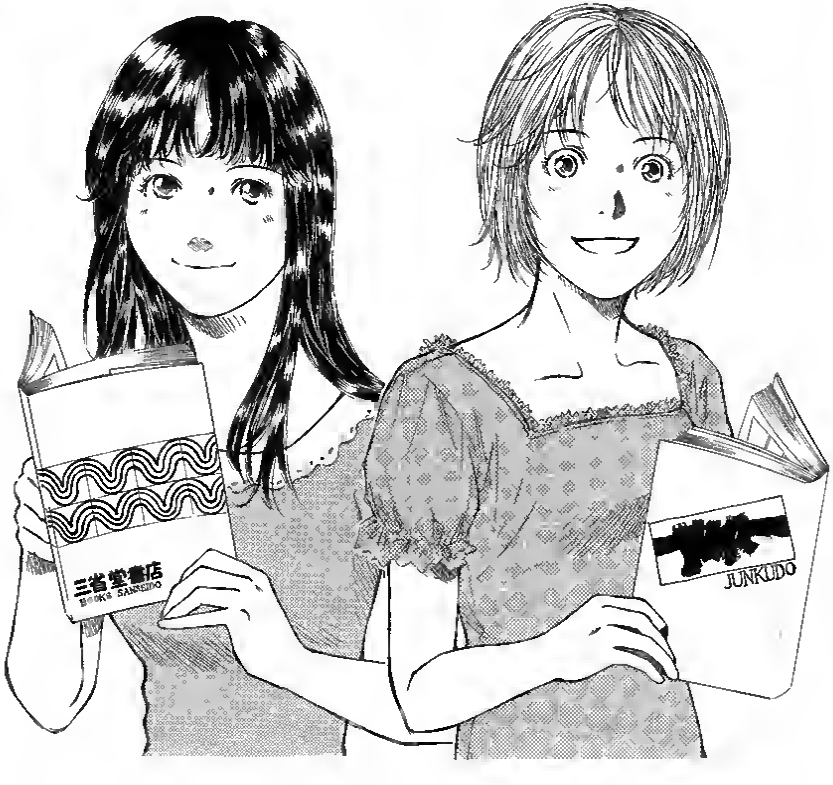
HERE YOU ARE.
.. A BOOK I TRADED WITH ANOTHER TRAVELER LAST MONTH.
IN EXCHANGE, I HAVE ...
SORRY.. I WAS JUST THINKING THAT IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LEFT JAPAN
..AND THAT..
Bwa ha ha
WHAT? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
PFFT
HEH

...I'M CRAVING SOME JAPANESE FOOD ABOUT NOW.
孤独のグルメ
久住昌之
谷口ジロー

Kingyo Used Books

COVER SERIES: JAPAN'S BOOKSTORES

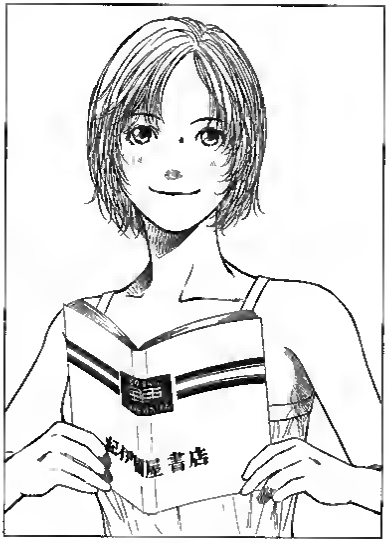
FOR THE RELEASE OF *KINGYO USED BOOKS* VOLUME 2, SEIMU YOSHIZAKI DESIGNED STORE DISPLAYS FEATURING BOOK-COVER LOGOS FROM VARIOUS BOOKSTORES. HERE'S A SAMPLING OF TEN BOOKSTORE COVERS!



SANSEIDO SHOTEN

JUNKUDO SHOTEN

BUNKYODO SHOTEN



KINOKUNIYA SHOTEN

KEIBUNDO SHOTEN

MEISHODO SHOTEN

Kingyo Used Books

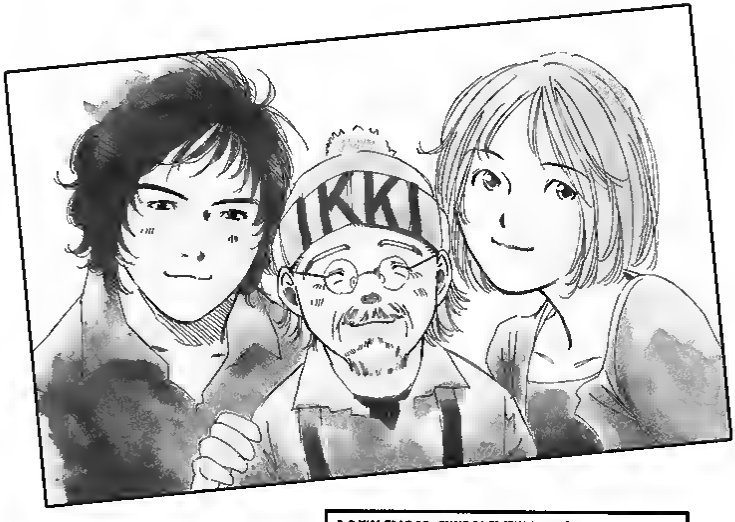
COVER SERIES: JAPAN'S BOOKSTORES

YURINDO

BOOK FIRST

HORINDO SHOTEN

LIBRO



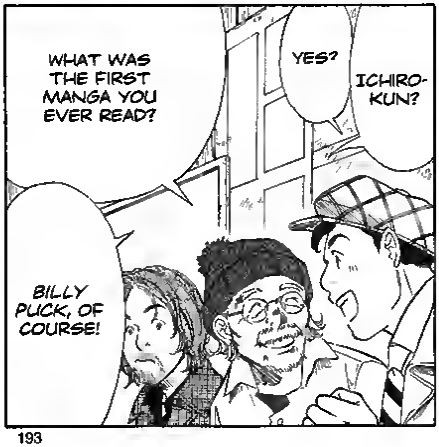
BONUS IMAGE: IKKI PREMIUM CARD, 2005 VERSION

Seven Stars

Billy and Grandpa's Curious Travelogue

Episode 3

The bus stop stands in the middle of a field of flowers.



A group of new grade schoolers run by with their school bags swaying.

WHAT WAS THE FIRST MANGA YOUR PARENTS BOUGHT YOU?
FOR ME IT WAS DORAE-MON.
WITH ME IT WAS UWASA NO HIMEKO.
MAYBE ASARI-CHAN...
BOSOU KYODAI LETS & GO!!
WOW . . .
LOTS OF TITLES FROM TENTOMUSHI COMICS.
OHH.
THIS TENTOMUSHI MAGAZINE . . . SURE SEEMS POPULAR WITH KIDS.
IS IT A MONTHLY? A WEEKLY?
TENTOMUSHI ISN'T THE NAME OF A MANGA MAGAZINE.
BUT JUMP COMICS ARE FROM JUMP...
. . . AND MARGARET COMICS ARE FROM MARGARET.
Bus Stop

てんとう虫の歌
川崎のぼる
THE PUBLISHER'S NAME COMES FROM THIS MANGA.
HERE.
SEE, I'M PICKING UP KNOWLEDGE.
WAH WAH
HEY, IT'S NOBORU KAWASAKI'S TENTOMUSHI NO UTA, "SONG OF THE LADYBUG"! I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT IN AGES!
I CAN STILL SING THE ANIME THEME SONG.
WE ARE THE SEVEN STARS... ♪
SO THE NAME "TENTO-MUSHI" CAME FROM THIS MANGA.
I HAD NO IDEA.
SO IF THE MANGA HAD BEEN CALLED SONG OF THE BEETLE ...
I HAD IT ALL WRONG...
HMM.
...YOU'D ALL BE READING MANGA FROM BEETLE COMICS?

©川崎のぼる
©NOBORU KAWASAKI

HIROSH!!! YOU'RE IN FIRST GRADE NOW!
YUP!
Dramatic recreation
YOU CAN READ HIRA-GANA!
AND A FEW KANJ!!
YUP !!
THAT'S BECAUSE I'M SEVEN!
THEN HERE'S A COMIC FOR A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD, JUST LIKE YOU.
BOOKS
SEE? THAT'S WHY THE LADYBUG LOGO HAS SEVEN STARS.
WOW! THANKS, DAD!
THAT'S ONE TO GROW ON!!
VROOOM
GUESS I WAS WRONG...
I ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT WAS WHAT THE SEVEN STARS MEANT.

KINGYO USED BOOKS NOTEBOOK

More useful information about the manga found on the shelves of **Kingyo Used Books**!

Text by Hiroshi Hashimoto.

Born in 1948 in Kumamoto, Japan. Owner of the used bookstore Kirara Bunko. Aside from running his bookstore, he also teaches at a preparatory school and is active in a nonprofit organization. Fellow alumni of his elementary school include manga commentators Hiroshi Yonezawa and Yukari Fujimoto. His dream is to build a manga library in Aso. Hashimoto was asked to write this column when being interviewed for information for this series.

© Kazuo Umezu
© 楳図かずお

This title is featured in Chapter 15: Umezu Salon

The Manga of Kazuo Umezu

The manga at left is *Kyofu*

Published by Akita Shoten beginning in 1971

This chapter of *Kingyo Used Books* features the works of Kazuo Umezu, the dark prince of horror manga Umezu made his debut with *Mori no Kyodai* (Brother and Sister's Forest), which he wrote when he was in eighth grade. His exceptional artistry garnered immediate attention and was said to have sparked the jealousy of Osamu Tezuka himself.

At the height of the popularity of manga lending libraries, Umezu exploded onto the scene with the *Hebi Onna* (Snake Women) series and *Mama ga Kowai* (Scared of Mama), which appeared in *Shojo Friend*. In these stories, beautiful women and reassuring mothers suddenly turn into snakes and slither menacingly. Each weekly installment relentlessly stirred the visceral fear of creatures like snakes, spiders, centipedes and cats. My younger sister was traumatized by horror manga for a long time after reading Umezu's stories.

As *Kyofu* (Terror) ran in *Hebon* magazine and *Hangyojin* (Half-Man Half-Fish) ran in *Shonen* magazine, Umezu's work evolved from external scares to a more internal, psychological brand of horror. *Iara*, which began serialization in the premier issue of *Big Comic*, is a classic that raises the question: "Is there only one reality?" When I read it as a kid, I didn't quite understand what the manga was trying to say. I only felt an uneasy fear in the pit of my stomach. Even when I read *Iara* now, my heart shrivels instantly. That's how powerfully Umezu's manga bored into the hearts of readers.

After Umezu began publishing exclusively with Shogakukan, he launched his masterpiece, *The Drifting Classroom*. Any Hollywood sci-fi thriller is reduced to a B movie in comparison. Umezu followed it with an unexpected gag manga, *Makoto-chan*. With regard to these two seemingly disparate genres, Umezu has said, "If you're doing the chasing, it's comedy. If you're being chased, it's horror." A spot-on appraisal indeed.

Hopefully this overview gives you a glimpse of just how vast Umezu's world is. That's why the Umezu Salon is necessary. It's not too late! Perhaps you'd like to visit the secret salon in Kingyo's basement.

※ *Kyofu* (Terror) is available in *Kyofu· Umezu Perfection* (two volumes) from Shogakukan.

© Naoko Takeuchi

This title is featured in Chapter 16: Makeup

Sailor Moon (18 volumes)

By Naoko Takeuchi

Published by Kodansha beginning in 1992

The series featured in this chapter, Naoko Takeuchi's *Bishojo Senshi Sailor Moon* (Pretty Soldier Sailor Moon), can be read today in a new 12-volume edition from Kodansha. *Codename wa Sailor V* (Codename Sailor V) appeared in Kodansha's *Run-Run* in July 1991, laying the foundation for the monster hit series, which launched in *Nakayoshi* in December of the same year.

The franchise broke sales records for books, games and merchandise, it also set attendance records for its theatrical films and stage musicals and hit the top of the ratings for TV anime. *Sailor Moon* was also a hit overseas and became a fan phenomenon worldwide.

The overwhelming success of *Sailor Moon* is, in no small part, due to the fact that the main characters battle their foes in school uniforms. There's no doubt that the stylish uniforms color-coded for each character made a big impression on kids. The huge cast of characters was another factor in the manga's success. Up until then, it was customary to have no more than five main characters in an action manga, as seen in the Super Sentai series *Goranger*. By increasing that number to ten, Takeuchi gave every reader at least one character with whom to closely identify. As *Sailor Moon* expanded into a multimedia franchise, kids became hooked on the anime, games and character merchandise.

Nearly twenty years later, those kids are all grown up. But for the adults who experienced the *Sailor Moon* craze as children, it isn't so easy to escape the powerful hold it had over them. The same goes for Misaki, who makes a return appearance in this chapter of *Kingyo Used Books*. *Sailor Moon* has the power to transport her back to her childhood. For Misaki, who was beginning to question her career path, reading the beloved manga again takes her back to a time when she was able to just enjoy anything that came her way.

If you're feeling down and looking for a good manga, try picking up one you used to read as a kid. The manga you've dismissed as too childish or mainstream to merit a second read just may give you the shot in the arm you need to get out of your funk.

© Sanpei Shirato/Akame Pro
© 白土三平/赤目プロ

This title is featured in Chapter 17:
Same Time Tomorrow

The Manga of Sanpei Shirato

The manga at left is *Seton Dobutsuki*

Published by Toho Tosho Publishing beginning in 1961

The manga featured in this chapter are all series by Sanpei Shirato. *Sasuke* and *Watari* feature young ninja as protagonists. *Ninpou Hiwa* (Secret Stories of Ninja), *Kamui Gaiden* (The Tale of Kamui) and *Sanada Kenryu* (Sanada Swordsmanship) depict the cruel destinies of ninja. *Seton Dobutsuki* (Seton Animal Chronicles) is the first manga told from an ecological perspective. All of these titles were published more than thirty years ago, but none of them have lost their luster.

For baby boomers like myself, Shirato's manga are indispensable to any conversation about the turbulent era of the late '60s. The young people of the time lashed out against society with massive student protests. At the time we truly believed we had the power to change the world.

That was when Shirato's *Ninja Bugeicho* (Band of Ninja) and *Kamui-den* (The Legend of Kamui), depicting characters who fight against the establishment, became like Holy Bibles for student activists. In Shirato's stories, peasants rise up against the powerful ruling class and the ninja group known as the *Kage Ichizoku* (Shadow Clan) with the help of Kamui, a fugitive ninja. College students identified with the heroes and became enthralled with Shirato's stories

But the youth movement fizzled and those student warriors began to drift apart. Some joined extremist groups, while others dispersed to the countryside to join grassroots movements like anti-pollution organizations, many more became corporate warriors, contributing to Japan's economic revival. But the indelible message of Shirato's manga echoed in their minds. Shirato's works may be the first and last manga to make such a powerful and lasting social impact.

Beginning in 2005, *Kamui-den* was re-released in 38 volumes to commemorate Shirato's fifty years as an artist. The project was timed to coincide with the approaching retirement of the baby boom generation and remind them once again of Shirato's message. I hope Kamui's ninjutsu will provide a much-needed spark to Japan's languishing revolutionary spirit

If you want to know how the long journeys of Shirato's lone swordsmen, ninja and wolves come to an end, pay a visit to Kingyo Books. You just may find a book that's destined for you!

This title is featured in Chapter 18:
The Kingyo Diaries (The Yamabuki Episode)

Stuff About Sedori

Sedori means "taking from the spine"...

Ready to put your eyes and brain to the test?

Let's learn a bit about the sedori business. The word *sedori* (背取り), first used in used bookstore circles, refers to the practice of buying underpriced books from used bookstores and other sources and reselling them at a profit. It's called *sedori* because you grab the books as you scan their spines.

But the sedori business isn't as easy as it looks. For starters, you have to know which books are valuable at resale. In *Kingyo*, both Ayu and Okadome are incredibly knowledgeable about which out-of-print manga are rare, how much they typically sell for, which stores they can be found at, and which stores will offer a fair buyback price. That's why the two seem to bump into each other so frequently all over the city.

In the world of out-of-print manga, some books have much greater resale value than others. For example, shonen (boys') manga from publishers like Mushi Comics, Sun Comics and Fujiko Fujio Land no longer garner as high a price as they have in the past. With so many popular shonen manga being reprinted and sedori competing fiercely for books, the market has become saturated.

On the other hand, kiddie manga, shojo (girls') manga and video game-based manga are becoming increasingly valuable. Also keep an eye out for out-of-print *bunko* and *shinsho* collectors' editions, children's "mooks" (a cross between a magazine and a book) and illustrated reference books! It's fun to check bookstore and online catalogs and try to predict the next big thing. As for where to sell, try to find a bookstore that is as fair and conscientious as Kingyo.

Incidentally, there are several golden rules to keep in mind if you decide to try your hand at sedori. The first is to consider the feelings of the bookstore where you do your treasure hunting. While it's only natural to buy at places that tend to price their books low, never check the market price of the books on your cell phone or talk about how cheap the books are while you're in the store. Pulling too many books from the shelves at once is also a no-no. Not only will you put the store on alert, you should approach the sedori trade with the mindset of sharing the wealth.

In this respect, Ayu and Okadome are ideal sedori. What's great about them is they're not seduced by money, they're not just about reselling books to turn a profit. Sometimes their goal is to cheer someone up with a book; other times it's to find a book that expresses their feelings; other times it's to lend support to places like Kingyo Books. If you go into the business with a genuine love of books and a desire to spread good cheer to those around you, no doubt the books will be happy too.

Perhaps you'd like to take a cue from Ayu and Okadome and try your hand at becoming a true sedori.

※ *Sedori* can also be written with characters signifying "to outbid." [競取り]

© Tochi Ueyama/Kodansha
© うえやまとち／講談社

This title is featured in Chapter 19:
The Joy of Living

Cooking Papa (84+ volumes)

By Tochi Ueyama

Published by Kodansha beginning in 1986

The manga featured in this chapter is the long-running series *Cooking Papa*. It began its run in *Shuukan Morning* (Weekly Morning) back in 1985 and is still ongoing, with 110 tankobon volumes to date. The manga stars Ichimi Araiwa, a cheerful salaryman who manages to juggle a career and housework, his wife Nijiko, a first-rate newspaper reporter who's not very good at keeping house; their growing son Makoto; and their cute-as-a-button daughter Miyuki. The Araiwa family's dinner table is always overflowing with delicious dishes and delicious smiles.

While there are plenty of cooking manga out there, few focus on home cooking and are filled with recipes anyone can make. I get excited at the sight of dads and kids, who rarely spend much time in the kitchen, seriously but happily preparing a meal from the recipes they jotted down from *Cooking Papa*. This manga has the curious ability to make readers feel the joy of eating, the joy of living and the joy of reading.

Cooking Papa is especially popular on the island of Kyushu, where the manga is set. The huge cast of characters has spread from the Hakata ward to all of Kyushu, with cooking connoisseurs from each area enlivening the story with their culinary skills. With endless story lines about heartbreak, retirement, illness, school admissions, child rearing and travel among the cast, the series keeps going strong, having lost none of its power over the years.

It's common for a long-running series to grow stale, but this manga gets better and better, its characters becoming more clearly defined with each episode. Why is that? For one thing, it's chock-full of useful cooking ideas. *Cooking Papa* uses not only the author's ideas, but ideas sent in by readers from far and wide. Its painstaking research is another secret to its unwavering popularity. And perhaps readers feel an affinity for the manga because it's based on easily identifiable stories from everyday life.

In this chapter, Natsuki's ever-impulsive mother makes a return appearance, and we see her employed as a cooking instructor. She uses *Cooking Papa* as a textbook! I truly envy the people of Kingyo, who live in a world where such a charming instructor teaches them to cook delectable dishes with manga.

This title is featured in Chapter 20: Nekotama-do (Part 1)

Stuff About Lending Libraries

The vanishing lending library...

Have you ever been to this place with a different ambiance than a manga café?

Old manga are cultural artifacts that must be passed down to future generations. Used bookstores like Kingyo Used Books and lending libraries like Nekotama-do have acted as bridges between generations. Recently, however, as new bookstores, manga cafés and rental bookstores have become influential, traditional used bookstores and lending libraries have begun to disappear. They're time-consuming businesses with little profit or time off, and, without anyone to succeed the previous owners, they are on the brink of extinction.

This is the situation faced by Nomoto-kun, the former salaryman who takes over Nekotama-do in this chapter. His decision to run a lending library because he wants to follow his heart truly inspires hope. It's true there are plenty of easier ways to make money than to manage a lending library. But for someone who loves manga and children and values human relationships, running a used bookstore or lending library just may be the perfect job.

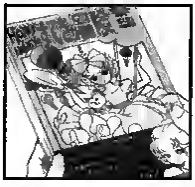
Twenty years have flown by since the owner of the used bookstore I used to frequent entrusted me with taking over his business. He and the couple managing the lending library I used to visit since I was a kid were wonderful advisers to me during crucial turning points in my life, such as choosing a college, seeking employment, getting married, studying overseas and changing jobs.

"When I close the store, I'll pass on all of these books to you," were words that soon became reality, and here I am now writing about classic manga. There's not much money in it, but no other job suits me quite so well.

Incidentally, did you know that older lending libraries like Nekotama-do are completely different from the current rental bookstores? In the 1950s, over 20,000 lending libraries across the country loaned out books that weren't offered at general bookstores and were only available through rental distribution. Many of the publishers were small businesses whose primary focus was not publishing, like candy stores, toy stores and open-air vendors, all of which hired manga creators to write one-shots. These B6- and A5-sized books were called *kashihon manga* (loaner manga) and *kashihon shosetsu* (loaner novels). Masterpieces by some of the top mangaka featured in *Kingyo*, including Kazuo Umezu, Sanpei Shirato, Osamu Tezuka and Fujio Akatsuka, were published as *kashi manga* during this period.

After the 1960s, it became more common for the manga serialized in magazines to be reprinted in book format, and lending libraries began to stock the same material as general bookstores. During this period, kashihon manga disappeared from the shelves of lending libraries, only to be replaced by the portably slim shinsho format. As more and more manga were published in greater volume, the shelves of lending libraries became glutted with a constant stream of new titles and older manga that had lost their currency were thrown away.

Thanks to places like Nekotama-do and Kingyo, which continued to preserve old manga through these turbulent times, we are able to enjoy classic manga today. Now it's our turn to support them! Let's run down there to enjoy the classic manga of the '50s and '60s!



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This title is featured in Chapter 21: Nekotama-do (Part 2)

***Honey Honey no Suteki na Bouken* (2 volumes)**

By Eiko Mizuno

Published by Asahi Sonorama beginning in 1968

Nekotama-do's new owner, Nomoto, embarks on a trip around the world (more or less) to track down a checked-out manga that was never returned The book in question is Eiko Mizuno's *Honey Honey no Suteki na Bouken* (Honey Honey's Wonderful Adventures), released in 1968 from Asahi Sonorama It's the story of a girl named Honey Honey and her kitten, Mimi, who find themselves traveling around the world, entangled in one incident after another The cast of this slapstick comedy includes a cute romantic heroine, a hysterical queen, a handsome and mysterious thief, a Viking and a suspicious inventor.

Creator Eiko Mizuno started drawing in third grade and was identified as an artistic prodigy from an early age With the encouragement of Osamu Tezuka she began contributing to *Shojo Club* magazine, and in 1956 her series *Gin no Hanabira* (The Silver Flower Petals) was a big hit. The only female resident of Tokiwa-so, the apartment in Tokyo where Tezuka, Fujio Akatsuka and other classic manga creators lived as fledgling artists, Mizuno displayed a design aesthetic that hadn't been seen in shojo manga before.

Honey Honey no Suteki na Bouken began serialization in 1968 in *Ribon*. Although Asahi Sonorama has since published both a shinsho edition and an oversize edition, both have been out of print for quite some time By popular demand, Futabasha released bunko editions in 2002, but these too are out of print and are now hard to find. The manga was also adapted into an anime series in 1981, which is indicative of how popular Mizuno was at the time.

In this chapter, the globetrotting Takano is so moved by the careful repairs done to the ripped pages by Otama-san's own hand that he feels compelled to take the book with him when he leaves the country As depicted in this episode, traditional lending libraries put a lot of care and affection into each book that they make available for their customers.

In order to offer books in the best possible condition and to as many people as possible, lending libraries have developed methods of preserving them First they remove the cover, drill holes and reinforce the binding with nails so the pages don't fall out. Then they cut a plastic sheet down to size to make a cover so the original cover doesn't get damaged. If the edge of a book comes back dirty, they clean it with sandpaper or an eraser. And, of course, if a page is ripped, it's repaired with thin, translucent paper. Library owners also make a point of remembering their customers and offer recommendations if there are any new arrivals.

Up until the '60s, when manga were still rare and people shared copies with one another because there were few other sources of entertainment, both the lender and borrower treated books very seriously. Perhaps Nekotama-do and Kingyo are reminders that this bygone era existed just a few decades ago

The information in this volume is current up to March 2006.

Thanks to every creator, publisher and property owner of manga titles mentioned in this volume for your understanding and cooperation.

Information provided by Gendai Manga Toshokan/Kirara Bunko.

KINGYO USED BOOKS

Volume 3

VIZ Signature Edition

Story and Art by **SEIMU YOSHIZAKI**

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Original Japanese edition "KINGYOYA KOSHOTEN"
published by SHOGAKUKAN Inc.

Original Japanese cover design by Kei Kasai

Translation: Takami Nieda
Touch-up Art & Lettering: Erika Terriquez
Design: Fawn Lau
Editor: Shaenon K. Garrity

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Printed in Canada

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, April 2011

Kingyo = Goldfish

Seimu Yoshizaki was born in Kanagawa, Japan. She made her manga debut with *Aka-chan to Tenshi* (Baby and Angel) in 1989. Aside from *Kingyo Used Books*, which is currently being serialized in *IKKI* magazine, she is the creator of many other titles, including *Telekinesis (Yamanote TV Kinema Room)*, *Ugokashiya*, *Kaban Toshokan* and *Deka Girl*.

This book reads from right to left.

Kingyo Used Books 3

In this volume:

	A manga collection featuring beautifully frightening horror stories piques the interest of a cowardly pick-up artist.
	Reading about an attractive soldier battling evil inspires a young woman to upgrade her wardrobe.
	A manga about the wandering travels of lone ninja and swordsmen raises the question, "What is fate?"
	A practical home-style cooking manga provides eating suggestions for a woman looking to expand her nightly menu.
	A man sets out to find a specific globe-trotting adventure manga.

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